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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7TH, 2019

Club's annual report details its busy year - see page 3.

Take a look at our 'In Business' feature on pages 16 & 17.

Town Council's take on new planning applications – it's one in favour, two against

IT'S been a busy start to the year for Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, with three significant planning applications in the pipeline.

The proposals by Hafod Housing Association to knock down the old sixth form building on Aberthin Road has attracted a great deal of attention, and so has the new 'Exchange' building on the corner of The Butts and Cowbridge High Street (in the car park next to The Market Place).

Also, an apartment block is proposed in a site next to the town hall car park, where the British Legion building used to be.

The town council has issued an update on its reactions to these (see page 4) and it's two against, and one in favour.

The council says: "Vale Market Community Enterprise, a voluntary group, have been working for some seven years on the market hall project as part of their efforts to keep Cowbridge as a market town."

The update goes on to say that the group has "consulted widely" and the council is supportive of the plan.

In contrast, the Hafod application has prompted a letter of objection with two main concerns. One is the height of the proposed development, and the other is that the council wants the existing building facade retained.

The council is basically supportive of the apartment block, but believes that the proposed design, with a flat roof, is out of keeping with the town, and has objected on those grounds.

It should be remembered, of course, that town councils have no power block applications. The decision lies with the Vale Council planning committee. In fact, in the case of the Exchange building, that decision is currently set to be made by council officers under delegated powers, unless it is 'called in' to be reviewed by the planning committee.

The council update is printed in full on page 4.

Primary school pupils enjoy some abstract art

Y Bont Faen pupils pictured at a pop-up art exhibition held by JP Jones - read more on page 3.

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Charity No. 284789 (England & Wales)
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http://apostolic-church.org/

Town council invites nominations for 'good citizens'

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council is inviting nominations for its annual 'Citizen of the Year' awards evening.

A council spokeswoman said: "The awards are for those who make an outstanding contribution to the community. They recognise an individual or group who make an extra effort to bring the community together; or those who go out of their way to help others."

There are seven categories:

- Citizen of the Year.
- Young Citizen of the Year.
- Senior Sports Personality of the Year.
- Junior Sports Personality of the Year.
- Service to the Community.
- The Mayor's Award.
- Honorary Citizenship Award.

In the case of the young person awards the upper age limit is 18 years of age.

Nominations can be submitted for a wide range of endeavours and anyone can nominate an individual or group.

Nominations can be made by downloading the online form which is available on the Town Council website, or by collecting a form or information pack from the town hall. Only fully completed forms will be accepted.

Nominations can be made until March 29.

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The toy box
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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Vale Council gave their full backing to tree planting'

I WOULD like to respond to the letter from Keith Lewis, published in The Gem on January 31.

Barry Action for Nature is a group of volunteers who have been working hard to improve the state of nature in Barry. The group has been working closely with the community and Vale Council to plant trees, put up nest boxes and carry out other activities to benefit the town.

Referring to the tree planting that took place on Port Road East on January 26, these were not new trees but a few replacement trees for some of the 700 trees that had not survived the last four years.

I am sure Mr Lewis recalls that the trees were planted in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the men and women of Barry who did not return from the First World War.

As well as replacing a handful of trees, the group also carried out some maintenance on the existing trees, collected litter and replaced some of the existing tree protectors.

In 2014, before the trees were planted, the immediate residents were consulted and leafleted on the matter. The Vale Council was also consulted and gave their full backing to the trees being planted. Since then, the council has cut the grass around the outskirts of the area to avoid damaging any of the young saplings. As the trees grow, they will shade out the area underneath and no grass will grow and no strimming will be required.

The trees planted in this area complement the trees that were planted a number of years ago further down Port Road East. It is well known that trees provide a filter from noise and pollution for local residents and in years to come, the homes in this area will benefit from the trees that have been planted.

Therefore the cost involved both now and in the future is minimal and the overall benefit of trees in cutting pollution and adding to a community's wellbeing, far outweighs any potential maintenance costs.

Claire Curtis, Barry

'Trees are fine… in their place'

WITH reference to the article 'Action For Nature' (January 24), trees are great in parks and open spaces.

When you have one right outside your front door it's no joke – cuts out your sunlight, it's taller than your house, branches damage your car when they fall, the mess of leaves everywhere blocking the drains – very slippery on the pavement when wet.

Cracking the pavement with the roots, even lifting the slabs. Council don't care, nothing gets done.

Action For Nature should have a tree outside their house.

Alvin Brown, Barry.

SEE MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 18.

'Money from dog waste fines could pay for more bins'

THE discussion around the Vale Council's proposals to create local safe places that has infuriated some of the dog owning community seems to have cooled a little, but the problem of dog mess in our public spaces persists.

While most of those who walk their dogs do take a responsible approach to picking up their dogs' deposits, sadly there are still those who steadfastly refuse to do so.

Some owners just don't bother, and some others seem to think that it's perfectly acceptable to bag the dog mess and 1) leave it suspended from a tree, as is often the case in Hensol Forest, 2) leave the bag just where it was filled or 3) as can be seen on Picadilly in Llanblethian, neatly piled on a gatepost for someone else to deal with.

It must be made clear to all dog owners that clearing up properly after their dogs is a legal requirement, which means bagging the mess and either depositing it in a public refuse bin, or a dedicated dog mess bin – or simply taking it home.

The Vale Council could, if so disposed, make more bins available. There is scant availability of such, for example, in Llanblethian where there are only two and they are fairly close together. Compare this with Pontyclun where, on the short stretch of road between Brynsadler and Pontyclun, there are no fewer than five bins. Making more bins available would, no doubt, reduce the dog mess problem significantly.

It's a fair bet that the council will plead poverty on this issue. But if there were some sort of effort made to catch out the current crop of offenders, the money raised from fines might make the supply of bins self-financing. There seems little point in attaching the odd sign to a lamppost reminding owners of their responsibilities; clearly, these are ignored.

So come on, Vale Council – make more bins available, or catch a few offenders and fine them accordingly.

M Hancock, Llanblethian.

'Proposed plans will leave children with nowhere to play'

I AM writing to express serious concern over the Vale Council's support for the local community, specifically green, open space where children play.

I am a resident of Maes y Ffynnon, Bonvilston, an excellent example of post-war development which includes some 24 dwellings and two charming village greens, one of which can be viewed from the A48 and is particularly beautiful during the spring. This village green is rarely played on by children due to its proximity to the busy A48.

The larger and more suited 'village green' (thus named in the council's local development plan of 2006-2011) is sited at the rear of the development and is in an area far better suited for children.

My two sons, aged 11 and three, together with some of the other residents' children, regularly play here.

The presence of this village green to the rear of Maes y Ffynnon is one of the reasons my husband and I chose Bonvilston as a suitable place to raise our children, yet it would appear that the council no longer wishes to acknowledge this precious space as a village green, since the conservation area was changed in 2010, excluding it and renaming it 'incidental green space', despite it being named as one of the village greens in the former, legally binding, local development plan.

The proposals, although not to scale, show a small proportion of the green to be excavated to provide parking for the visitors to 10 proposed new dwellings. This is misleading to anyone viewing the plans and appears to be a misrepresentation of the parking space which, if measured, takes up half of the width of the green and most of the length. This would render the green unusable as a play area for children due to the potential damage to cars from the harmless kicking of a ball.

There is great concern over the lack of a community council to both correspond with and acknowledge concerns raised by the residents affected by this plan, which contradicts the Welsh Government's play policy of 2002.

How much more green space must our children sacrifice before the council turns the rural vale into a concrete jungle?

Name and address supplied.

Defibrillators in your area

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Barry Memorial Hall & Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA
Marco's Café, Promenade, Barry, CF62 5TQ
The Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, CF62 3AS
Barry Town United AFC, Jenner Park, Barry Road, Barry, CF62 9BG
Barry West End Club, St Nicholas Road
Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9YG
Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, CF64 4JZ
Lloyds Bank, 1 Windsor Road, Penarth, CF64 1YR
Lower Penarth Community Association, Brockhill Way, Penarth, CF64 5QD
Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA
Pen y Garth School, Redland Road, Penarth, CF64 1QN
Penarth Bowls Club, Rectory Road, CF64 3AN
Penarth Mini & Junior RFC, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 3QH
Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AU
Penarth Town Council, Paget Rooms, Penarth, CF64 2YG
The Bay Caravan Park, St Mary's Well Bay Road, Lavernock, CF64 5XS
Dinas Powys Bowls Club, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HB
Select Convenience Store, 27 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL
Edmondes Arms, 9 Cardiff Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EP
The Star Inn, Treoes, CF35 5DL
Llantwit Major Bowls Club, Recreation Ground, Boverton Rd, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ
Cowbridge Town Hall, High Street, CF71 7DD

Information supplied by www.welshhearts.org.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	07.59	9.5	20.19	9.4
08 Fri	08.34	9.4	20.48	9.3
09 Sat	09.05	9.3	21.18	9.1
10 Sun	09.37	9.0	21.49	8.8
11 Mon	10.11	8.7	22.26	8.5
12 Tues	10.52	8.2	23.12	8.1
13 Wed	11.45	7.9	N/A	N/A
14 Thur	00.14	7.7	12.57	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call Gareth Jamieson on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG
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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.

Club's annual report details its busy year

COWBRIDGE (Gateway) Monday Club goes from strength to strength, with a current group of 17 energetic and (mainly) youthful members.

The helpers are only too aware of their advancing years, and would be delighted if anyone with more 'spring in their step' could come along to assist, even for just the occasional evening.

The group meets in the hall behind Ramoth chapel, accessed from the Broadshoard, Cowbridge, on the second Monday of each month from 7.30pm to 9pm. It is a social and relaxed gathering where different activities are arranged for those attending and, hopefully, the group gives carers a break for a short while.

The group are all volunteers, supported by the MENCAP association. Two of the Cowbridge and Llantwit Lions join in each evening, and valiantly provide some of the transport required by members, who come from all around the local area. Several school sixth formers have also joined to gain work experience.

Over the past year, the club has enjoyed a variety of indoor games organised by the Cowbridge Rotary Club, dance and exercise evenings, a pottery session, making decorations for the Christmas tree festival, a Harvest Ssupper and a Christmas party, both with musical or magical entertainment.

The Lions have walked members around the town with a local quiz and refreshed everyone in 'Happy Days' at the end of the evening.

A garden party was held in Trerhyngyll, with music from 'Half Tidy', when the sun shone on us all.

The March annual dinner with music and dancing to follow, was a great success in the St Quentin's room of the Bear Hotel. One hot evening, the group visited the RNLI visitor centre at Barry Island. On the summer coach trip, members spent a day in the Black Country Living Museum seeking shade, but thoroughly enjoying the different experiences, including the canal boat.

In August, the Bob Cook Games day in Swindon, run by the Lions Clubs, was well supported and those participating won medals to celebrate achievements, which were presented at a later club night ceremony.

The club is grateful for all the help given by so many, both financial or otherwise, which helps to keep the club open and running.

Anyone interested can contact members on 01446 773373, come along to one of the club evenings, or come to the dinner at the Bear Hotel on March 11 (the cost will be £18, but numbers are needed very soon, please).

Betty Alden, club chairman.

Lots to see, hear, and do at Cowbridge Library

ONCE upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children.

They disappeared so quietly at first almost no-one notices, until one day, they were gone.

No longer vivid in in children's voices, no longer alive in their stories…

During February, the *Book of Lost Words* will be on display.

Come and discover what they are, and how to bring them back to life.

On Tuesday, February 19 from 6.30pm–7.30pm, the library will welcome a local author who has proved the impossible possible.

Maria Leijerstam became the first person to cycle to the South Pole in December 2013. Hear first-hand about how this woman fulfilled her dream, and then wrote a book about it Entry is free.

Family crafts for ages 0–18 takes place from 11am to 12 midday on Tuesday, February 26. Run by the Vale Family Information Service, all are welcome. Call the library on 01446 773941 to book places.

On Thursday, February 24 (half-term week), drop in to the library from 11am to 3pm and create some art. No brushes needed, just the ability to pedal a bicycle. No booking and free.

7pm nos lau 21ain o Fawrth, Llyfrgell Y Bontfaen, Y Digymar Iolo Morganwg, Darlith gan yr Athro Geraint H Jenkins. Croeso mawr I bawb!

On Thursday, March 14, we are throwing open the doors from 11am to 12 noon for a singalong run by the Goldies Sing and Smile Charity; all are welcome to sing to the sounds of the 1950s and beyond.

For information on any of the above events, call 01446 773941.

Cowbridge Library

Creative times for school pupils!

CHILDREN at Y Bont Faen have been busy creating abstract art paintings, with each year group focusing on a different artist, ranging from Jonny Carroll Pell in year 6 to JP Jones [also see last week's GEM] in reception.

Ewan and Briony.

The children used different techniques and medians to create the individual and colourful images including paint, charcoal, oils and tissue paper.

The artwork was framed by parents of the school. HRT Estate Agents sponsored the event.

Layla, year 6.

A new celebrity in town!

Y Bont Faen pupil, Ewan Whitestone, had the opportunity of a lifetime and as he took to the stage live on Blue Peter, on January 17.

The show had a special cooking feature and Ewan was invited to help the hosts cook as he is an expert.

Ewan, year 6, has his own YouTube cookery channel called 'The Scrunchbox', which features videos of him cooking different recipes and giving helpful tips.

On the show, Ewan helped make chocolate baskets out of chocolate sauce and icec ubes and three-ingredient cookies made out of eggs, flour and chocolate chips. Briony Williams, a contestant on *The Great British Bake Off* 2018, was a special guest on the show too.

Eleanor and Bethan, year 6.

Pupils 'pop up' at No 23!

Children from reception class at Y Bont Faen were delighted to visit local international artist and musician JP Jones at his exhibition in Cowbridge on January 31. The children had studied JP's sound art during their 'abstract art' week in December and made their own masterpieces.

YBFS

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90 Day Notice	£5,000	£1	1.35%
Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.35%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.25%
Young Saver	£1	£1	GROSS = 2.25% AER = 2.26%
First Adult Saver (For customers aged 18-30)	£1	£1	GROSS = 1.50% AER = 1.51%

(Please note the Swans Premier Account no longer exists and all existing accounts have been transferred to the Personal Premier Account)

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Restaurant and Rotary Club join together to make Cowbridge even more 'dementia friendly'

A Cowbridge restaurant has joined forces with the local Rotary Club to put on 'dementia friendly' evenings – part of the town's determination to lead the way in catering for people with the condition.

The evenings began in early December, following a Cowbridge Rotary Club social evening in the Shampan Restaurant.

Saleem and Ashi of the Shampan were anxious to provide a setting for people suffering from Dementia and their carers. Suitable space is reserved, and appropriate lighting and music provided. Different early evening menus are made available.

In the first meeting, before Christmas, Ashi Aravind was presented with the Dementia Friendly Cowbridge Rotary Mat.

Recently Ashi was named as Asian Chef of the Year 2018 Wales, while the Shampan was highly commended in the 'Best Indian Restaurant Wales' category.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6, at 5.30 for 6pm. Booking is advisable. (01446 771682)

If you have a relative, friend or neighbour who has dementia, then please let them know about these evenings.

HD

(Left to right): Huw Davies, Ashi Aravind, Heather Weddell and Liz George.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

News and views from Nancy Davidge, Tynewydd, Llangan. 01656 860303.

News from Llangan Primary School

PUPILS at Llangan School are supporting the NSPCC charity by a sponsored 'daily mile' obstacle course, to raise money in a fun way.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

THE next service at Saron will take place at 3pm on Sunday, February 24 at 3pm conducted by Rev Alwyn Evans when a warm welcome will be extended to everyone.

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Three key planning applications are on the council's agenda

SINCE Cowbridge Town Council's last update in the GEM, the council have been addressing a number of important issues for the town.

There are three current planning applications of considerable public interest. The proposed development by Hafod Housing Association on Aberthin Road, the proposed market hall (The Exchange) on The Butts and the proposed apartment block next to the Cowbridge Town Hall car park. Cowbridge with Llanblethia Town Council reviewed each of these at a recent Planning Committee meeting.

The committee welcomes appropriate development of the Aberthin Road site but has a number of serious concerns about the Hafod development and has submitted a letter of objection. Two key concerns are the height of the proposed building, and the plan to completely demolish the existing building.

Vale Market Community Enterprise, a voluntary group, have been working for some seven years on the market hall project as part of their efforts to keep Cowbridge as a market town. They have consulted widely and have now reached the planning application stage. Cowbridge Town Council have been kept informed of progress throughout and are supportive of the project.

The Planning Committee took the view that although an appropriate development of the former-British Legion site by the car park is to be welcomed, the design proposed with a flat roof is not in keeping, and they have therefore objected.

The Leisure and Amenities Committee have been working to improve the various parks for which the council is responsible. Southgate Park has been cleared ready for planting in the spring. The intention is to consult local residents as to what exactly is to be done before any work is started. In Twt Park, the children's play park, work has been done to improve the surfaces.

The Town Hall Committee has been working on a project to install a lift in the Town Hall. They now believe they have a viable scheme and have secured planning permission. The next step is to secure the necessary funding.

On Tuesday, February 12 at 10.30am in the Lesser Hall on the ground floor of Cowbridge Town Hall there will be a presentation to explain the proposal. All members of the public are invited.

At this time of year a key responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is to propose a budget for the financial year 2019/20 and determine the level of Council Tax precept necessary. In view of the improvements the Town Council wish to make to accessibility in the Town Hall, and to the various open spaces for which they are responsible, they have decided, after much debate and consideration, to increase the precept to £73.71 for a band D property, an increase of 66p per month.

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council welcome the news that Cowbridge is to have a new post office. The council have been pressing for this since the closure of the old post office in September 2017 and the announcement came on the same day that a representative from The Post Office was due to give an update at the meeting of the council.

A report is expected shortly on the Vale of Glamorgan parking consultation. The Town Council submitted a detailed response to the consultation, which recognised that parking is a serious issue in Cowbridge, but rejected the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals. The council proposed that the measures suggested for the Cowbridge car parks be put on hold and that a new, broader study be carried out specifically for Cowbridge.

As everyone can see, the Darren Farm housing development and new link road are progressing. The Town Council have raised a number of concerns relating to safety on the Llantwit Major Road and the A48 with both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpey. A site visit is being organised. If anyone has any concerns they would like to be raised with the developer they should contact the Town Clerk.

All meetings of the Town Council are open to the public and are advertised on its notice boards and website www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk. Minutes of meetings are available on the website.

Business is in line for top award

A Cowbridge-based business is among the shortlisted finalists for this year's South Wales Chamber of Commerce Welsh Business Awards.

The company is shortlisted for the 'Success Through Overseas Trade' category, which recognises businesses that help develop Wales' export base.

The awards recognise the very best from businesses nationwide. The awards celebrate success, excellence in best practice, and the contribution Welsh businesses make to the wider community.

Worldwide Drinks Ltd, of Eastgate, Cowbridge, is a sales and marketing organisation which assists small to medium-sized beverage manufacturers develop their export business. The company currently works exclusively with 20 different supply partners and sells their products to 56 markets around the globe.

John Howkins, director of Worldwide Drinks Ltd said: "We are delighted to be short-listed for this award as we are truly passionate about export - it's all we do, every day, all year round.

"We have enjoyed the support of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce over the years, so to be nominated in this way is a great privilege and recognition for all the hard work which has been put into developing our global footprint."

Mr Howkins told The GEM that the two best-known Welsh brands sold overseas by Worldwide Drinks were Brains Brewey and Prince's Gate mineral waters.

He said: "We have sold Brains into 20 markets, including Scandinavia, Italy and Russia.

"Our Russian contract has Brains on sale in 2,000 stores all over the country.

"We also had great success in India with a Brains root beer, which has been very popular."

Heather Myers, CEO of South and Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce said: "I am so passionate about promoting Welsh businesses, like all our finalists, because they are the backbone of our economy. The Welsh Business Awards are the perfect way for businesses to celebrate with their staff, suppliers and clients and to promote their successes. Through these awards the South Wales Chamber of Commerce provides a vehicle for Welsh businesses to tell their stories and give them the recognition they deserve. I am very proud of the work that the Chamber does to support Welsh businesses, which I believe to be some of the most innovative, committed, and successful companies in the UK, as demonstrated by the calibre of these shortlisted companies."

Friendship club members brave the weather

AT the first meeting of 2019, Cowbridge Friendship Club members enjoyed a TV-themed musical quiz and a visit from Toby Messer, volunteer manager of the Age Connects Good Neighbour Scheme.

Toby informed members of the various facilities on offer, including transport when clients could be taken to and from hospital appointments, befriending or taking clients to do their weekly shopping.

Pat Smith

Luau in Llantwit Major

CHANNEL Coast Surf Club held a Hawaiian luau (traditional Hawaiian party or feast) at Llantwit Major Football Club.

Live music was provided by local musician Tom Sutch and there was Hawaiian-style food supplied by The Farmers Pantry with members dressed accordingly.

The club raised £375 from the evening that will go towards scheduled events and activities planned for this year.

A club spokesperson said: "CCSC would like to say a huge thank you for the efforts of club members Mark Jones, Bridie Jones, Ciaran Thompson and Joe Lewis in organising and arranging such a great night and also to Llantwit Major Football Club and their staff."

The club also thanked local companies for the generous donations of raffle prizes.

Membership to the club is now open and membership forms are available from channelcoastsurfclub@gmail.com.

Biomass energy plant bosses insist there will be no pollution problems when site is up and running

ABOVE:
An aerial view of the Biomass plant in Barry. (Image by Comm Comm UK).

ABOVE LEFT: The stack whichrises high above the plant.
ABOVE RIGHT: The giant fans that cool and condense the steam back to water.

BARRY'S biomass energy plant is set to be fully operational in the coming months.

Managers of the gasification plant in Barry Dock say the plant will produce enough green energy to power 23,000 homes – and hope it will be fully up and running in the early spring.

They have played down fears over noise and pollution caused by the plant and say they will abide by environmental standards set in their permit, and say the site will employ up to 20 members of staff – mainly local people.

Campaigners say Barry Biomass will increase air pollution – even if it meets industrial standards.

They are also opposing plans for the gasification facility to receive a subsidy from Ofgem, paid for by energy bill payers.

Welsh Government is still to decide whether an Environment Impact Assessment is needed for the plant.

Mark Bull, site manager, said: "We have been issued the environmental permit and intend to comply with everything it asks."

The gasification plant heats, but does not burn, waste wood chippings at above 950C until it becomes a gas called syngas – which is then combusted to produce a high temperature flue gas which passes through a number of processes.

That gas is then channelled into a boiler and creates steam, which then drives a turbine generator to produce electricity.

The main potential pollutants from the site are nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, tiny dust particles and acid gases. These pollutants are passed through a pollutant control system using urea, lime and carbon before they come out – the plant says the emissions will meet EU-set limits.

The cleansing process will generate both harmful and non-harmful ash. Both will be taken away in sealed tankers. The non harmful will be incorporated in items such as concrete breeze blocks, while the hazardous ash will be taken to a secure disposal facility.

The operators are aware that protestors use of the term 'incinerator' has caught on and is commonly used. However, they insist the plant uses a different technology to incineration – where waste is burned in a furnace. They point out that there are around 20 similar gasification plants in the UK, and many more in Europe.

Mr Bull said it is "entirely natural" for people to have concerns but he hopes Barry Biomass will be accepted by the community.

He said: "We are really excited that Barry Biomass can finally begin the production of clean electricity. The team has been working hard on-site to get everything ready.

"This will not only benefit people across the country who will be using renewable energy, but also benefit the environment, as it will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

"We do understand the concern around potential emissions from the site, however we want to assure residents and businesses across Barry that all emissions from the plant are rigorously cleaned. This ensures that the emissions are not harmful to people, animals and the environment and meet regulatory limits. We will continue to monitor this.

"As a local business, we are part of the Barry community and proud to be so. As such, we want to operate in a way that benefits everyone."

He added that National Resources Wales (NRW) had placed monitoring devices throughout the plant, with many on the stack that emissions will pass up and through. The NRW devices record measurements constantly, and are available to NRW inspectors at any time.

Barry Biomass, which is owned by a consortium of private investors managed by Aviva Investors, would use waste wood, mainly from building sites, which would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Energy from the site would be sent directly into the local network in Barry.

Richard Frearson, from Power Consulting Midlands which built and controls the equipment on site, said: "Because we're generating electricity here, somewhere a coal fire power station doesn't have to generate that electricity."

He also said wood will be diverted away from landfill due to the site, and the power would connect to the local grid, which means less infrastructure.

Noise levels would be kept at four decibels above background noise, managers of the plant say.

Upgraded 'quieter' equipment, such as £360,000 ultra-low noise emitting fans in the air condenser, have been installed on the site to keep the noise down, the managers say.

Sound monitors have also been installed close to the facility to monitor noise levels.

Asked about noise, Mr Frearson said people living nearby "can expect to hear nothing. We have already monitored it and made sure it's not going to be there".

He added that, once the plant was running smoothly, it was their intention to "engage with the community" and possibly have open days for visitors.

A spokesman for the Docks Incinerator Action Group, said: "Natural Resources Wales works on the basis that if the incinerator works up to that limit it's OK, but it's not true. They are adding the pollution to the atmosphere.

"They are still adding dangerous emissions to our atmosphere in terms of gases and pollutants.

"We're concerned that their confidence that they can start operating soon suggests they are in the loop, especially with Welsh Government who are refusing to give us any answer to the simple question of whether this is an EIA development.

"We will continue pressing for answers to important questions we have raised."

Matt Discombe (Local democracy reporter)/Philip Irwin (GEM).

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FILCO market

'Sensitive' access improvements are made to a Cadoxton church

ON February 3, Cadoxton Methodist Church was visited by Barry Town Mayor Cllr Janice Charles, who opened the building project which includes new steps and permanent ramped access into the chapel.

With the creation of the new larger, curved steps, the church managed to integrate ramped access so it enhances the building and worked with architects to ensure that the end result was sensitive to the 156-year-old building.

Stephen Davies, the project manager said: "The access project has been on the table for many years. It's wonderful to see it finally completed. The project is transformative for us as a church and the community have really appreciated it, commenting as they have seen the work progressing."

One person said: "It's good to see things being done. We do feel that it's a contribution to the community, as well as a legacy project for the church."

The project was made possible due to the grant funding contribution from the Welsh Church Act Fund administered by Barry Town Council.

Rev Carole Challis, the church Minister and superintendent Minister of the Vale of Glamorgan circuit, explained: "This is significant for us as a church. It's made accessing the building less problematic for our members but it's also a message to our community which says 'all are welcome'."

Dinas Powys welcomes its new £55,000 minibus

Cllr Steve Thomas (left) the chair of Dinas Powys Community Council and John Fanshaw, chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, cutting the official ribbon to launch DPVC's new minibus.

RESIDENTS turned up to celebrate the arrival of the new Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC) minibus, after years of fundraising had finally paid off.

Apart from a generous grant from the community council, all the funds were raised locally.

The minibus has been constructed to accommodate people with mobility issues.

Cllr Steve Thomas, the chair of Dinas Powys Community Council, officially 'launched' the minibus, and people were keen have a look inside the vehicle.

More than 70 DPVC trustees, drivers, escorts, transport users, volunteers and supporters attended Murchfield Community Centre for the launch and to take afternoon tea.

John Fanshaw, the chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, based at the centre, said: "Throughout its long and distinguished existence, community transport to local supermarkets and events has been at the heart of DPVC and the minibus/ambulance is regarded with affection by so many residents and is a reminder of the services DPVC can offer.

"A campaign to replace the minibus, estimated to cost over £55,000, was successfully launched. The choice of vehicle and its seating configuration reflects the observations of drivers, escorts and users."

School does well in Estyn report

IN an Estyn inspection, Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig in Barry has been judged excellent in three of the five areas in which it was assessed and good in the other two.

The school received the highest rating possible in the categories of wellbeing and attitudes to learning; care, support and guidance and leadership and management, while standards and teaching and learning experiences were given 'good' with excellent features.

In the area of wellbeing and attitudes to learning, among other factors the report hailed the close connection pupils and teachers share. It read: "The strength of the working relationships between pupils and staff is an exceptional feature of the school's work and contributes extensively to the effective learning environment."

It was also noted the: "… governors' willingness to challenge the school in order to ensure improvement is a very strong feature."

Under the section care support and guidance, the report said: "The school is an extremely caring and friendly community that promotes the importance of good behaviour very effectively."

Headteacher Sian Owen was singled out when it came to leadership and management, with the report stating: "The headteacher provides innovative and robust leadership and sets a clear strategic direction for developing the school. She has very high expectations and is passionate about the community that she serves."

Georgia on my mind…

THE speaker at a recent Barry Men's Forum meeting was Bristol-born Theo Crutchley Mack, an artist by profession who is also an author.

His most recent assignment was on the South Georgia Heritage Trust, which is heavily involved in returning the area to what nature intended.

Theo is holding a display of his art work at the Albany Art Gallery, Albany Road, Cardiff which runs until February 9, before moving throughout the UK.

Barry Men's Forum meets weekly on Thursdays at 9.45am at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth Crescent and new members are always welcome. For further information, contact Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PDGG

Council's refurb for the Batts Field play area

THE Vale Council has refurbished Batts Field play area in Barry at a cost of around £50,000.

Based around a 'jungle' theme, existing swings have been upgraded and new equipment for younger children installed, including a multi-unit disc spinner, spring-mounted animals and games panels, while the area has also benefitted from resurfacing.

This is the latest in a long list of play areas that have undergone improvement works, with a number of sites across the Vale receiving the same treatment. The total cost of the work was £49,000, with money coming from Section 106 'contributions' secured by the Council as part of nearby developments.

Lunctime concerts at All Saints Penarth

A NEW season of free lunchtime concerts begins at All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth next Monday, February 11.

Local photographer and musician Nick Treharne, accompanied by talented guitarist Tom Scott provide the entertainment this month with a repertoire consisting of their own instrumental compositions and songs, and also work by mainstream artists such as Paul Simon and Tom Waits.

Music at Lunchtime concerts at All Saints' are held monthly on the second Monday. Doors open at 12.30pm and concerts start at 1pm and last around an hour. The audience are invited to bring their lunch along with tea, coffee and cake available to purchase. Free entry but donations accepted towards the church and a charity of the performer/s choice.

More information on *www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk* or email *admin@allsaintspenarth.org.uk*

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AM offers 'A Welcome to Wales'

LAUNCHING the 'Nation of Sanctuary – Refugees and Asylum Seeker Plan' last week formed part of my new ministerial duties.

I was pleased to make a statement in the Senedd to outline ways in which we can meet the Welsh Government's ambition of making Wales a nation of sanctuary for all who choose to make it their home. This requires action across the range of needs facing refugees including access to housing, work, language classes, health and education.

The plan has been endorsed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and includes actions to prevent vulnerable individuals from being exploited and safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

I have been delighted to welcome Syrian refugees to the Vale with their families, helping to open up opportunities in all these areas of their lives as they seek to make a contribution with the skills they bring, as farmers, carpenters, health care workers and teachers. Croeso Llantwit is backing the

Assembly Notes by Vale AM JANE HUTT

Community Sponsorship scheme successful across Wales to welcome a refugee into the community, and we will soon be welcoming the arrival of the 1,000th Syrian refugee from that war torn country to Wales.

As Health Minister at the start of the Assembly nearly 20 years ago, I helped foster a Refugee Doctors scheme funding language and professional accreditation courses, resulting in a large number of doctors receiving the GMC (General Medical Council) approval and now all working in the NHS in Wales and across the UK.

The launch of the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan followed National Holocaust Memorial Day which we marked in the Senedd with a cross party vigil, hearing from a Holocaust survivor. I was particularly proud of Barry sixth form students studying at Whitmore High School, Seren Ewington and Cain Gannon, who introduced the Holocaust survivor Henri Obstfeld to the Assembly.

The students made powerful and moving speeches about their involvement in the Holocaust Educational Trust and the impact this had on their thinking and learning about the Holocaust.

This was followed by the launch of an exhibition based on the Holocaust theme 'Torn from Home' at Art Central on January 26 with the work of Welsh sculptor Alison Lochhead and Nerea Martinez (painting and drawing) on display. This exhibition is well worth a visit at the Barry Library Art Central Gallery in King Square, which has hosted the work of many fine artists over the years. The exhibition depicts the horrors of the Holocaust and the ongoing plight of refugees and asylum seekers across the work and is open until March 2.

I had the privilege of meeting Vale Refugee Champion Robin Jenkins to hear about his work with refugees in the Mediterranean, featured on the news over Christmas, aboard the Dutch vessel *Sea Watch 3* rescuing refugees and seeking a safe haven for them and hope for the future.

Robin has been undertaking rescue work and volunteering on lifeboats since his time at Atlantic College, where the rigid hulled inflatable lifeboat was invented and is now used to save lives across the world.

He has now set up the Atlantic Pacific International Boat Rescue project and is training volunteers who take part in rescue missions taking place across the world, including rescue from tsunami, as well as migration.

Robin has shown great courage and dedication supporting people in the greatest need and is an example to us all. But there is much we can do at home on our doorstep and in the Vale and in Wales, for us to follow our ambition to be a Nation of Sanctuary.

£240 fine for displaying incorrect food hygiene rating

A BARRY restaurateur has been fined for displaying an incorrect food hygiene rating on his former eatery's website, following a successful prosecution by the Vale Council through Shared Regulatory Services.

Ali Deveci, who previously operated Izmir Greek and Turkish restaurant on Broad Street in Barry, claimed to have a food hygiene rating of five when its actual score was in fact one. This happened in October 2017 and again five months later. Mr Deveci plead guilty to two offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 during a recent hearing at Cardiff Magistrates Court.

He was fined £240, £120 for each offence, ordered to pay costs of £120 and a victim surcharge of £30. Mr Dececi confirmed to the court that he is no longer involved with the business.

Cllr Hunter Jarvie, Vale Council Cabinet Member for Regulatory and Legal Services, said: "Hygiene ratings are not just window stickers, they refer to the standard of hygiene within a business and are an important reference for customers.

"Food outlets need to satisfy a range of specific criteria to gain a rating of five. This requires commitment to good practice and there is no shortcut to achieving this. Mr Deveci deliberately misled people about his business' hygiene rating by claiming to have one vastly superior to what was actually the case.

"I hope this prosecution sends out a clear message that hygiene ratings are important assessments of food outlets and anyone found to be doctoring them will face serious consequences."

Shared Regulatory Services is a partnership between Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale Councils which brings together the Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing functions of the three local authorities.

Tenth 'Coming of Light' event held

ART4U has thanked the people who attended the 10th 'Coming of the Light' celebration.

Organiser Glyn Pooley said: "We were blessed with a beautiful evening that created a wonderful sunset at the Knap in Barry. Thanks go to Laura Bradshaw and the Porthkerry Community Choir who sang uplifting songs

"Lovely poems were shared by Fran Smith and Bel Blue. Messages of hope were attached to the bridge and the evening drew to a magical close. It was truly memorable."

Bereavement café to bring people together

A GROUP for bereaved people whose loved ones received support from Marie Curie in the Vale will hold its latest session this week.

The Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice's Family Support Team is launching the first Bereavement Café at its Bridgeman Road hospice on Friday, February 15. Running from 10am to noon, the café will run on every third Friday of the month.

The café is open to those who are known to have had support or whose family have received support from the organisation. To find out more about the Bereavement Café, call the Marie Curie Hospice on 029 2042 600 and ask to speak to the Family Support Team.

Meet your local officers

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

Meet your local officer at The Square, Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Llandough Penarth, on Thursday, February 7 between 10am and 4pm.

Meet Your Local Officers at Penarth Library on Thursday, February 7 between 11am and 12 noon.

A police surgery will be held at Llantwit Major Library on Tuesday, February 12 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

A 'coffee and chat' will be held at the Victoria Inn, Sigingstone, on February 19 at 11am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

Soroptimists receive long service awards

THREE long serving members of Soroptimists International Barry and District were presented with long service awards by president Mary Tonebene.

Jackie Memory, a member for 30 years, Dr Val Williams, for 35 years and Anne James for 45 years each received an award.

All three are past presidents and have given outstanding service to Soroptimists and the local community, giving their time and skills to raise funds for local and international charities.

Soroptimists is an international and local movement and to learn more about their work in the community, go to sigbi.org/barry-and-district/.

Banner day for groups as new service pops up

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) is offering a tailor made pop-up banner design service to organisations, which complements its existing print and design service.

GVS prides itself on knowing its service users extremely well, so can help with content as well as managing the entire process including the design, wording and working with the print company.

GVS has produced pop-up banners for Wick Youth Club, Colwinston Youth Club and most recently, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club.

Chris Economides from Barry Beavers said: "The service provided by GVS was fantastic, we highly recommend it. The banners will highlight the work we do and we look forward to using them at GVS' Big Volunteering Fayre on January 23 at the Memo Arts Centre, Barry where we are looking to recruit volunteers for our swimming club."

If you would like information on pop-up banners, contact Mark Stillman, Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) on 01446 741706.

The wonders of Wenvoe for Valeways walkers

THE forecasting of snow, ice and wind by Valeways president Derek Brockway did not deter 10 Valeways walkers from meeting John at the Horse and Jockey for a seven-mile morning walk.

Setting off in overcast, dry conditions with frost on the ground, they walked towards Wenvoe Quarries before passing Wenvoe Wood and heading for Burdonshill.

The track was flooded in a couple of places but easy diversions were available and the group eventually arrived at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club. Here a notice invited funeral guests to head left, so the walkers went right; along a lane passing Goldsland and eventually reaching New Wallace. Who was Wallace? No one knows – perhaps there a GEM reader who can tell us?

The group did not go that far and turned north across fields watching a fox treading carefully through the frost, to arrive at St Lythans Burial Chamber. It is said that on Midsummer's Eve, the capstone rises and spins around with the supporting stones heading to the river for a wash, while a headless horseman gallops around the field.

The walkers took the lane past Dyffryn Gardens to turn right across fields to arrive at Coed Nant Brân before heading to Vianshill and the Downs.

An easy walk down the track past Wenvoe TV mast brought them back to the Horse and Jockey for welcome food and drink.

Many thanks to Heather at the pub for the hospitality and the use of the car park.

John Treby

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Job losses at Ford – council to work with response team

THE leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has said the local authority is working closely with the Welsh Government to assemble a specialist response team to help support Ford employees affected by redundancy.

The first staff to lose their jobs at the engine plant in Bridgend will leave by the end of this year.

The number due to be offered voluntary redundancy is thought to be around 370.

In a statement, BCBC leader Cllr Huw David said: "As the Ford Bridgend Engine Plant is such a major local employer, we are obviously concerned about the livelihoods of its staff.

"We're working closely with Welsh Government on proposals for assembling a specialist response team to stand ready to support the employees who may be affected."

Speaking at a full council meeting on January 23, Cllr David said he had contacted senior managers at the plant to offer assistance.

He said the specialist response team could be pressed into service in the event that significant redundancies become unavoidable, adding the council would calling on organisations such as Business Wales, Careers Wales, the Department of Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus and more to join it.

Liz Bradfield
Local democracy reporter

Farmers fill the air with glorious smells to celebrate Farmhouse breakfast week

A WARM welcome and mouth-watering smells greeted those who joined the Glamorgan breakfast functions, which were organised as part of the FUW's 'Farmhouse Breakfast Week' campaign (January 21-27).

The Glamorgan events were held on January 21 at Cwm Farm Shop, Treorchy and January 25 at Town Hall, Cowbridge along with a joint event with FUW Gwent on January 24 at The Beech Tree Hotel, Ystrad Mynach.

FUW Glamorgan CEO Rachel Saunders said: "It was about showcasing the most important meal of the day in a bid to raise awareness of the health and nutritional benefits of breakfast, and the huge variety of top quality farm produce available in Wales – ranging from bacon, sausages and eggs to speciality dairy products, breads and cereals.

"We were able to promote local producers with the assistance of AGORA, which is a new project providing support to new and small producers in this area.

"We loved having everyone there and I thank all those who supported us this year, either by cooking, sponsoring produce or helping us raise money for our worthy charities."

The breakfasts raised a fantastic amount of money for the FUW president's charity appeal - a total of £600 - with all the proceeds being split between Alzheimer's Society Cymru and Farming Community Network.

"It was great to have members and friends of the Union coming together, being a part of what we do, and sharing their thoughts and worries about the state of the industry, telling us their stories and helping us to understand how we can help each other. What better way to do that than around a table where we share great food and have a cup of tea. I'm already looking forward to next year's breakfast events," added Rachel Saunders.

AD

Could Eagle create eddies in your home?

EAGLE is a lively three-year-old ex-racing Greyhound who enjoys doggy company and could live with another dog of similar size already in the home.

He is excitable when he sniffs out treats, so this will help with any training he requires. Eagle walks well on the lead and is always up for an off lead run. After a good walk, he is happy to stretch out on a nice soft bed for a snooze.

Eagle is looking for a home where there is someone around most of the day as he is not used to being left. He can live with children 14 years old and above.

Canine carer Hannah said: "Eagle is an adorable lad, who is always eager to go for a walk with his canine friends. Greyhound fans will fall in love with him."

For more information, visit *www.dogstrust.org.uk*

ADVERTORIAL

Charity's campaign to help life limited children - simply by making a Will

A children's hospice has teamed up with solicitors across south Wales to offer a free Will-writing service.

From February 18 until March 3, Tŷ Hafan's Write a Will campaign will have local solicitors waive their standard fee for helping prepare a Will for clients, in return for a small donation to the charity.

Amber Howells, fundraising executive for Individual Giving at Tŷ Hafan, said: "A Will is the only way to give you peace of mind and ensure your wishes will be honoured as you intend.

"The Will writing service will be provided by your chosen solicitor for a suggested donation of £65 for a Simple Will or £75 for Mirror Wills. There will also be an option of leaving a gift to Tŷ Hafan to help the charity continue providing care and support to families who need it.

Amber added: "All our services at the hospice are provided to families free and one-fifth of these services are funded thanks to gifts in Wills.

"By taking part in our Write a Will campaign, you'll not only be securing your wishes by getting a professionally drawn up document, you'll also be helping us to provide comfort and care to life-limited children in Wales."

For more information about the Write a Will campaign, visit *www.tyhafan.org/writeawill* or call 02920 532 255.

News in brief

Valentine cake sale

Friends of Penarth Library will hold a Valentine Cake Sale on Saturday, February 9 at the library in Stanwell Road between 10am and 1pm. Local designer Mari Worth will be running a free children's craft session at the same time.

Rhoose Community Cinema

Nominated for eight Oscars, the fourth remake of A Star is Born (15) will be screened at Rhoose Community Cinema on February 16; doors open at 6.45pm. Licensed bar; tickets (£5), available on the night. Call Jo on 07986 907151 for further information.

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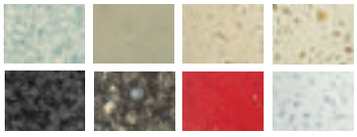

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Depleted police panel fails in bid to veto police council tax rise

A controversial 10 per cent hike in the amount council taxpayers in south Wales contribute to policing is set to go ahead – despite members of the police and crime panel refusing to back it.

Members of the panel, which scrutinises South Wales Police's commissioner Alun Michael, wanted a lower increase than the one proposed by the force.

However as only seven of the 11 members of the panel were at the meeting in Merthyr Tydfil today (Tuesday, January 29), the panel's solicitor Simon Jones said there were not enough members to officially veto the rise.

The panel will write to the commissioner explaining their decision and will asked him to come back with a lower increase.

However in a press release, the force said it would go ahead with the council tax increase for 2019/2020.

The precept charged by South Wales Police is added to the council tax bills in all the areas covered by the force, which includes Cardiff, Swansea, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr.

A spokesperson for the force said the 10.3 per cent rise amounts to an extra £24 per year for someone living in a band D property – a rise of 46p a week.

South Wales Police will have to make over £7 million of savings next year, having already found £51 million since 2011/2012.

Alun Michael told members of the panel that during the consultation on the South Wales Police precept this year, more than 1,600 people responded, compared to just 20 last year.

He said the majority (70 per cent) of those who responded said that they were willing to pay more for their policing.

Peter Curran, treasurer to the crime commissioner, said that the force's revenue budget had been cut by 31 per cent since 2011/2012 and that the capital budget stands at £800,000, which he called "derisory" in terms of the investment requirement.

He said: "The funding formula is archaic, out of date and in major need of reform" adding that it essentially costs South Wales Police £18 million a year.

He added that any changes to the formula would not be felt until 2021 and that the force still doesn't receive capital city funding.

Mr Curran added that the core grant is equivalent to less than flat cash because pay awards, the pension gap and inflation.

He said that a £3 a month rise on Band D would give the force headroom to invest into front line policing as the numbers are currently below 3,000 officers.

Omar Hussain, the force's chief finance officer said the force provides a "high quality service" and has delivered £0.5 billion worth of "less harm" to south Wales.

He added that most households (68 per cent) are below Band D so the burden would be falling less on these households and is therefore a progressive tax.

Chief Constable Matt Jukes highlighted the increasing demand the force is facing with policing rugby internationals, dealing with homelessness and begging, roads and domestic abuse amongst many other things.

He said: "The demands are significant. I am really proud of where we are in terms of delivering quality of service.

"We must answer 999 calls and deal with victims and deliver justice for them."

He said the force is among the best in England and Wales for taking action but that the risks and threats are growing in the most complex areas.

Mr Michael said: "It is a matter of pride that performance is so good when we have taken £51 million out."

He added: "I don't believe I can recommend anything lower than that (10.3 per cent). I don't believe we would be able to maintain the safety of the people of south Wales.

"I believe it is the right balance. It doesn't come without deep thought and deliberation and a great deal of discussion."

He said he believed that it would be "irresponsible" not to increase the precept even if he resented it because of their duty to keep people safe

He said: "There has been a transfer of responsibility from central government to local tax payers."

Anthony Lewis
Local democracy reporter

'Reports of robbery, stalking, and harassment rise by 19 per cent in area' says ONS

THE Office of National Statistics (ONS) has released the latest crime statistics for the 12 months to September 2018, it is reported.

The general rise in figures reflects the UK trend, which remains largely attributed to greater public confidence in reporting crime.

While South Wales Police has recorded an increase of 5 per cent, it is below the national average of 8 per cent.

Reports of robbery in the region has risen by 19 per cent, and stalking and harassment also rose by 19 per cent. However, vehicle offences and burglary in the region have fallen by 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

South Wales Police, however, does recognise and accept the Office of National Statistics' (ONS) view that in some areas there has been a genuine increase in crime.

Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for south Wales said: "We are currently facing the challenge of the increased impact of 'County Lines' and the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults by big city gangs who follow a nasty and targeted business model. Some specific knife crime and other offences have been associated with that form of criminal activity and I'm happy to endorse the successful approach taken by the Chief Constable and police leaders across south Wales.

"On the other hand, the longer term figures show that the level of public experience of violence, despite the recent experience, is less than it was a few years ago. Even more importantly, there is a continuing convergence between the experience of the public and what is reported to the police in south Wales.That is very encouraging, because we face real financial challenges and have to do more with less, so being close to the experience of the public and the needs of victims is absolutely crucial.

"Victims are at the heart of all we do – this has been a priority for South Wales Police for some years now. Our approach is to actively encourage people to come forward and report crimes; that continues to be reflected in these increases in reported crimes.

"In line with other forces, we attribute much of the continued rise in figures to the change in recording methods, which occurred in 2014. However, we recognise that there has been a genuine rise in some crime categories so we remain committed to working closely with a range of partner agencies, including those in the health, local government, education and the voluntary sectors, to prevent, detect and reduce crime."

Deputy Chief Constable Richard Lewis of South Wales Police added: "We continue to experience a rise in demand in both emergency 999 calls and non-emergency 101 calls – a large proportion of these are not crime related.This rise in calls, together with an increase in the number of crimes being reported, means there is a growth in demand being placed on the force.

"We continue to maintain the quality of our response in increasingly difficult financial circumstances and are seeking to utilise technology to support our front-line officers in improving their capability and capacity to deal with an ever more complex environment.

"It is good to see the number of burglaries continuing to fall and we recently carried out a large operation targeting active criminals who commit burglary across the region. That was a great success, with a series of excellent arrests and the recovery of a significant amount of property and cash.

"We continue to actively work with vulnerable victims of all crime and remain committed to increasing levels of reporting specifically in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and, sexual offences and when those victims do come forward, we follow up with support and investigation.

"However, crime is only a part of what we deal with and there are many other challenges we face, including responding to and caring for those people who have mental ill health and are in crisis, vulnerable missing people and children and other hidden harms which we, as the police service, respond to and manage on a daily basis and which do not appear within the crime figures.

"None of these areas of demand are responded to in isolation, and we are committed to continually improving every area of our work to ensure we provide the best possible service for the communities of south Wales.

"We continue to be extremely confident in the integrity of our recording process, being one of only a few forces graded as 'Good' by HMICFRS in accurately capturing and recording all reports that come into the force.

"We are focussing our operational activity and deployments where they are needed the most; particularly in response to an increasing tendency for some to carry knives and continuing to target those crimes which particularly affect the vulnerable in our communities and we are already seeing the positive effects of this."

The GEM asked for further statistics on, for example, reports of hate crime. No response was received.

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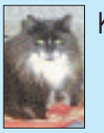
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Charity aims to help the homeless

HOMELESS charity Emmaus South Wales will be carrying out 'Solidarity Nights' to support local street homeless people and need donations to help as many as possible.

The charity needs donations of the following items: tents, sleeping bags, blankets, miniature toiletries, sanitary products, hats, scarves and gloves, rucksacks, waterproof jackets and trousers.

The items can be donated to local Emmaus shops and should be labelled 'Solidarity'.

If you know someone who is homeless and would benefit from a safe home and meaningful work opportunities, contact Emmaus by email community@emmaussouthwales.org.uk or call 01656 750829.

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Out & About with The GEM

McCarthy and Grant exceptional in Can You Ever Forgive Me?...

HAVING developed her reputation for loud-mouthed comedy, it was nice to see Melissa McCarthy change pace a little for 2014's comedy-drama *St Vincent*.

Having returned to comedy with the likes of *Ghostbusters, Spy* and *Life Of The Party*, McCarthy dips her toe yet again into dramatic waters with *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*

Based on real events, she plays Lee Israel, a struggling writer who finds herself pursuing a path as a forger, writing letters purportedly from literary figures and obtaining large sums of money for them.

Assisted by her new-found friend Jack (Richard E Grant), all seems well until Lee's delicate house of cards comes tumbling down around her…

While the title of this film could be seen as Melissa McCarthy's mea culpa for making audiences sit through the atrocious *The Boss*, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* is brave new territory for the actress, a film that doesn't rely on her brand of comedy, rather her acting ability.

It proves to be a hugely successful one, the story a compelling portrait of a person who finds comfort and happiness impersonating snapshots of other people's lives.

It highlights just how good an actress Melissa McCarthy can be, given the right material. Israel is a writer of biographies who has fallen out of step with the literary world, an individual whose inability to forge relationships with people, both personal and professional, is her undoing.

She falls into forgery quite by accident, yet takes a form of solace from reality

SCREEN TALK with GARETH JAMIESON

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through them, aping the personalities of the likes of Dorothy Parker and Noel Coward, the risk and reward of what she's doing, as she states at one point, making her feel more alive, and creatively sated, than ever.

McCarthy's performance is wonderful, certainly one that has roots in her particular brand of comedy, yet also one that is incredibly touching. While Israel isn't overly sympathetic (her self-destructive tendencies best highlighted in her relationship with a bookshop owner played gently by Dolly Wells), McCarthy's delicately drawn turn allows us to empathise and sympathise with her.

She is (un)ably assisted by Richard E Grant's hilarious Jack, a man who shares a kinship with Israel. Both of them are outsiders, neither of them seemingly with any real friends so they fall in with one another, forming an odd couple relationship that pushes and pulls brilliantly.

Grant takes great delight in delivering a role with real flair and substance, the character sketched in a similar light to Israel, and Grant matches McCarthy's ability to create empathy without softening the edges of the character.

Marielle Heller showed with her debut film *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* a capacity for grounded, engaging work, and the same applies here. There is nothing flashy about the direction, but she shows a strong grasp of the material, keeps the tone light but dramatic, and allows the story and the performances to control the film.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? is, ultimately, something of a triumphant film even given the subject matter, one that in other hands may have been skewed heavily towards the forgery aspect.

But to do that would lose the human through line of these characters whose shady dealings are, in fact, a way for them to exist in the world and overcome their loneliness – and it's that element, brought to the fore, that makes this such a wonderful piece of work.

VERDICT: An intriguing story brought to vivid life thanks to the incredible central performances of Richard E Grant and Melissa McCarthy, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* is a tremendous film. A portrait of loneliness and of outsiders trying to make their way in the world, Marielle Heller's subtle yet strong direction helps make this a wholly satisfying viewing experience. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Catch Me If You Can* (2002), *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* (2015).

Exhibition is dispelling winter and inspiring spring!

ARTIST Lesley Dearn launched her new exhibition, 'Of Petals and Sky', at The Old Hall, Cowbridge Community College on February 6.

Running until March 5, her exhibition has its essence in the effects of light. Large impressionistic florals share the walls with striking seascapes inspired by Lesley's walks along the Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire coast paths.

Complementing the formal show, Lesley's florals are also dispelling the gloom of winter on Cowbridge High Street – local florists and interior design shops are showing pictures for the duration of her show.

For more information, visit Lesley's website at: www.lesleydearn.co.uk.

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Feared by the bad, loved by the good – Players put on wonderful pantomime!

***ROBIN Hood and the Babes in the Wood* came to Colwinston when the Colwinston Players put on its 14th pantomime.**

There were three evening performances and one matinee. In true panto style, there were goodies and baddies, extravagant costumes, dancing, singing and a wedding in the finale.

Martin Driscoll excelled as the dame with his colourful outfits, courtesy of the costume department led by Liz Stone.

His singing was superb, especially his Elvis impression and his striptease was awesome.

Sue McKinnon as the nasty sheriff and sidekick Denis played by Julie Davies gave an evil performance, but they both repented in the end. The Babes (Georgie Griffiths and Phoebe Cooke) were excellent in their roles as were all the young, and not so young, merry men, dancers, guards, chorus and rabbits! Robin Hood (Jo Foxall) and Marion (Hannah Miles) played their parts with gusto and lived happily ever after.

Director Julie Lloyd, supported by a back stage and bar crew of more than 30 helpers, once again made sure that this annual event entertained the village with a very professional performance.

All the money raised from ticket sales and performance raffles will be split between the Players, Marie Curie and Bro Morgannwg Baby Loss. Congratulations must go to each and every one of the cast, crew and thanks to all the villagers who supported this wonderful event.

AS

What's on and where in your area

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, February 7 there will be a watercolour demonstration by local artist, teacher and author Peter Cronin (www.petercronin.org).

Peter is also a member of The Royal Society Of Marine Artists, the Royal Watercolour Society of Wales and the Pure Watercolour Society. On February 14, there is a demonstration of mixed media techniques involving acrylic and modelling paste by Jude Lowery.

CAS welcomes artists of any level, and also non-artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on art topics. There is also an annual calendar and art competition and a number of social events.

The group meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and occasional visitors (small fee) and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's programme and activities collect a programme from the Old Hall, see www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas or Instagram#cowbridgeartsociety.

Pencoed Library

A HARRY Potter book night takes place at Pencoed Library on Thursday, February 7 at 4.30pm; all ages welcome for an hour of wizarding fun.

Other events at the library are: Learn Direct every Monday 9.30am-12.30pm; Bridges into Work every Tuesday 9.30am-12pm; Digital Drop-In every Tuesday from 2pm-5pm; Bounce and Rhyme every Thursday, 2pm; Makerspace every Saturday 10.30pm-11.30pm; Storytime and Craft every Saturday 12pm-1pm; Adult Crafternoon every other Friday from 2pm; Action on Hearing Loss, third Monday of each month 2pm-4pm; Philosophy Group, first Tuesday of each month from 4pm-5pm; Teen Reading Group, second Tuesday of each month 4pm-5pm.

Jane Hutt surgery

JANE Hutt AM will hold an advice surgery at the CAB offices in Barry, 119 Broad Street (CF62 7TZ) on Friday, February 8 from 4.30pm–5.30pm.

No appointment necessary.

Repair Cafe

A REPAIR Cafe takes place on Saturday, February 9 at Bethel Church Hall, Llantwit Major, from 10am to noon.

Volunteers will be attempting to repair small portable household items, including IT equipment, bicycles and fabric repairs. There will also be teas/coffees and cake available; all welcome.

Valeways guided walks

ON Sunday, February 10, Around the Bay (with no muddy boots!); meet at Pont y Werin footbridge on Marconi Avenue, Penarth at 2pm.

On Monday, February 11 at 11am, meet at the railway station car park in Llantwit Major for a stroll around the Llantwit lanes.

On Wednesday, February 13, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Cosmeston meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston at 10.30am. The same day at 2.30pm, the Coffee Shop Strollers of Llantwit Major meet at the town hall car park.

On Friday, February 15, walk to Llangan and back the long way; meet at The Red Fox, Penllyn (CF71 7RQ) at 10am.

Six Nations at the Memo

THE Memo Arts Centre will be showing all of Wales' Six Nations games on the big cinema screen and will also be showing *Bohemian Rhapsody* **Sing-Along on Thursday, February 7.**

Further information and tickets from www.memoartscentre.co.uk or contact the box office on 01446 738622.

Quilters meet

GLAMORGAN Quilters will next meet on Saturday, February 9 at Ystradowen village hall from 10am to 3pm. If you would like to learn how to sew or quilt, why not call in as a visitor (£5 charge) and see what it's all about.

This month, the group will be joined by Red House Quilting, who will be selling fabric and quilting accessories; all welcome to the Red House pop-up shop at the hall.

Family history

THE next meeting of the Bridgend branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society meets at The Len Evans Centre off Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, CF32 9RW on Monday, February 18 starting at 7.30pm.

Basil George will talk on the George family name, society and Merthyr Mawr Estate; everyone welcome.

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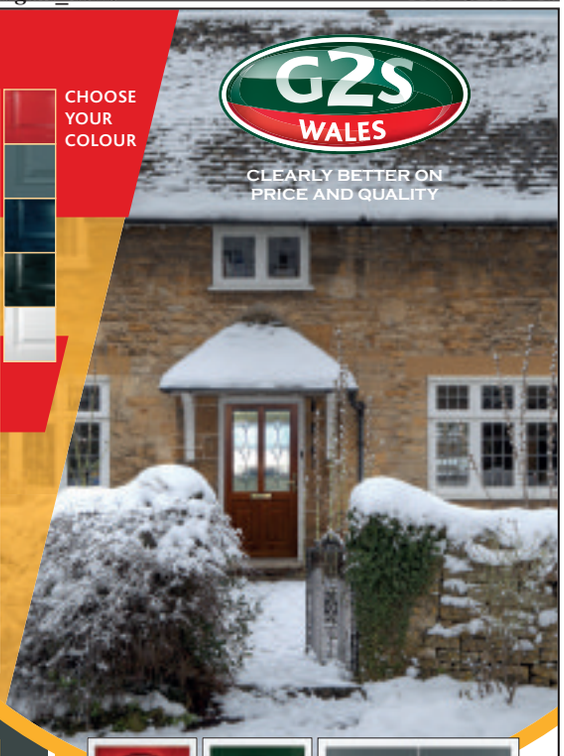

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IN BUSINESS ADVERTISING/ADVERTORIAL FEATURE IN BUSINESS

LOCAL NEEDS, LOCAL SERVICES

Hopkins Law expands again!

HOPKINS Law, an independent boutique law firm with offices in Cowbridge, Cardiff and Chepstow continues its growth with the appointment of another consultant solicitor, Mari Knowles.

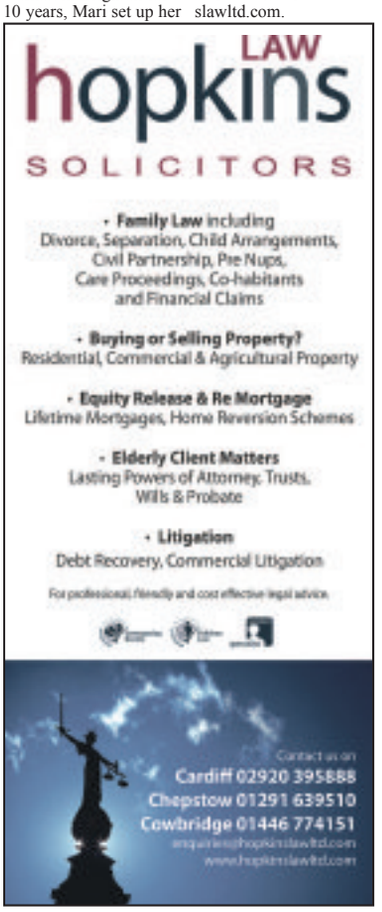
Highly recommended by so many of her clients, Mari specialises in landlord and tenant matters, both residential and commercial. Mari's analytical skills and attention to detail ensures she offers clients the best possible advice and service.

Landlord and tenant laws are continually evolving, and Mari is heavily involved with those changes. Mari regularly attends the All Parliamentary Party Group on Leasehold Reform, a group of cross-party MPs interested in seeing changes to leasehold law. Mari is also involved with the Law Commission's ongoing leasehold reforms. Having grown up and worked in Brighton for 10 years, Mari set up her own practice, working across the south east and London.

Liane Farthing, co-director and head of Property said: "Mari's appointment augments our aim to provide our clients with the legal services they or their family may need over their lifetime, delivered in a convenient way with high levels of professional expertise. Mari's appointment is evidence of this vision."

Kerry Mordey, co-director and head of Family, added: "Mari joins our team of talented lawyers who continually provide our clients with the depth of knowledge, insight and high level of service that clients now quite rightly expect. We are delighted to welcome Mari to Hopkins Law."

Contact Hopkins Law for Landlord and Tenant, Property, Family and Elderly client matters: call 02920 395888 or enquiries@hopkinslawltd.com.



Reiki treatments – new on Barry High Street

NEW year, new you? It's February, but it's never too late to incorporate self-care and 'me time' into your busy schedule.

Why not book in for a Reiki treatment, where it can: help assist your natural healing processes; reduce stress and anxiety; reduce aches and pains; promote relaxation; develop your emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing; aid your health and well-being; balance and increase your life force energy; reduce inflammation; help to heal infections and boost immune system.

One hour Reiki treatment is the equivalent to the benefits of three to four hours sleep.

Reiki is simply placing hands lightly on or near the body, channelling universal life force energy to the areas which need it most in your mind, body and soul.

Contact Heulwen on 07576772260 for bookings availability and find further information on Reiki treatments at The Vale Foot Clinic, High Street, Barry.

Studio Viva Fitness - Join now and pay nothing for February

WANT to get fit, lose weight or be healthier in 2019?

Then come and take a look at Studio Viva Ladies Fitness in Cowbridge. We provide fitness solutions for real women, from teenagers to those keeping active later in life.

We understand the many challenges women face in life, from work, to kids, to lack of time and the constant pressure of media images telling us we must look a certain way.

Studio Viva is about more than just fitness… feeling good, being healthy, social interaction and a friendly, encouraging environment are also hugely important. Our aim is to make you feel comfortable, inspired and supported. We truly are a gym for all women, whatever their age, size or ability.

So, if you think you don't like going to a gym, we offer something completely different – no floor to ceiling mirrors; no men; no Lycra; no pressure.

Easy-to-use machines designed for women; 30-minute machine circuit that can fit in anytime that suits you; friendly atmosphere with lots of interaction and chat; in a stylish studio environment with attentive, supportive staff always on hand; with sparkling clean equipment and surroundings.

Find us at 1 Westgate, Cowbridge, above Marley's Barbers.

An expert's advice could help to avoid dispute

BRENDAN Sweeney, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population does not have a will.

A will takes effect on your death, and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to it.

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place powers of attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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SOLICITORS
Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Probate and Estate Disputes & Administration
WE ARE A LOCAL, WELL ESTABLISHED LEGAL PRACTICE
We will:
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- Offer home visits where necessary

Please contact Brendan Sweeney.
Telephone 01656 645921
E-Mail: brendansweeney@davidprosser.co.uk
3 Court Road, Bridgend CF31 1BL
David Prosser & Co is the trading name of DP Law Limited.

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IN BUSINESS ADVERTISING/ADVERTORIAL FEATURE IN BUSINESS

LOCAL NEEDS, LOCAL SERVICES

Malmo Hearing picks up top award

OUR latest award 'Audiology Practice of the year 2019' was awarded by the Association of Optometrists.

We are an independent family-run business offering the best solution for your hearing needs. We understand that hearing loss is a very personal and sensitive issue and we treat every patient with the utmost compassion. We will be with you every step of your journey to hear and live better, from the initial consultation through ongoing treatment and long term health and protection of your hearing.

Our expertise can offer the best way to protect and maintain your natural hearing.

We can offer the very latest in digital hearing aid technology and are very excited to announce the new Livio AI, the first-ever hearing aid to feature integrated sensors and artificial intelligence, including fall detection.

Livio AI is the world's first multi-purpose hearing aid that provides both superior sound quality and the ability to track body and brain health. Featuring integrated sensors and artificial intelligence, Livio AI redefines what a hearing aid can do.

Livio AI is so much more than just a hearing aid, it is a gateway to better health and wellness and will be available from Malmo Hearing at end of March.

Our main practice, conveniently located in Bridgend town centre at 6 Derwen Road, is open six days a week from Monday to Thursday (9am–5pm); Friday (9am–3pm) and Saturday (9am–1pm). We have a second practice in Newport at 203 Caerleon Road, which is open Monday to Thursday (9am–5pm); Friday (9am–3pm) and have partnerships with pharmacies, GP surgeries and opticians throughout south Wales, enabling us to offer a customer-focused and community based local service.

We run regular clinics with our partners at Treorchy, Talbot Green, Dinas Powys, Barry, Caerphilly and Blackwood. Home visits are also available by request, including all CF, NP and SA postcodes.

Our services include free hearing assessments, free demonstrations of the latest in digital hearing aid technology, rechargeable hearing aids, microsuction ear wax removal, tinnitus therapy, hearing protection and hearing aid repairs and servicing.

Contact us on 01656 652444 or for more information, visit www.malmohearing.co.uk.

The new season of fashion is only just beginning at Samantha B

MY goodness where does the time go? January came and went and here we are racing through February.

I am delighted to say that the new season's stock is starting to come in and it's lovely to see the gorgeous colours injecting a freshness into the shop.

Olsen have produced a gorgeous colour palette, beautiful subtle pastels highlighted with stronger tones to make them work. The ever-popular Mona jeans, a delight to wear, are much more than a jean and acceptable everywhere.

This season we have neutral shades as well as vibrant red and optic white, teamed together with a spring weight jumper and scarf to throw off the darkness of winter.

Bianca is always a crowd pleaser, with beautiful knitwear in colours you can start wearing straight away and gives an instant lift.

Monochrome is always very sophisticated; highlight this with one of this season's big colours in emerald, red or cobalt and you'll be turning heads in no time.

Bianca and Olsen always produce a range of coordinated matching colours, but not in a twee way – a modern way to use your wardrobe with beautifully fitting clothes at affordable prices.

I am delighted to introduce to Samantha B a new range called Great Plains. Just like the other collections, it is a lovely mix and match range at great prices for effortless dressing.

I particularly love it when ladies call in and tell me about the comments they've received. I am the only supplier of Bianca in the area so if you're looking for something different, call in and see what's on offer.

If you're still in winter mode, the sale is still on with crazy prices. I feel lucky if I find something in a sale; it gives you the confidence to wear things in a different way if you've had them at a reduced price.

We still have plenty of choice – for example, a Marble jumper, originally £63, is now £18 and Olsen jeans are now £29.

What are you waiting for?

Samantha B

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During this event, we will offering:

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- FREE technology demonstration
- FREE clean and check of your current hearing aids

9:30AM – to – 4.30PM

Please call early to make an appointment as space is limited
Bridgend: 01656 652444

Malmo Hearing
Local Hearing Care for Local People

Malmo Hearing Limited
6 Derwen Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 1LH
T: 01656 652444
E: info@bridgend-hearing.co.uk

Malmo Hearing Limited
203 Caerleon Road, Newport, NP19 7HA
T: 01633 263784
E: info@newport-hearing.co.uk

SPECIAL HEARING EVENT
Two days only at Bridgend
6 Derwen Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 1LH
Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th February 2019

SPECIAL OFFERS ON THE DAY

*Hearing Aid Expert **Paul Lamb**, will be in our clinic to **offer free advice** & **demonstrate** this fantastic technology. **Try for yourself and experience the difference!***

Muse iQ up to 20% OFF!

Introducing **MUSE IQ** hearing aids. Designed to make enjoying music, TV and talking on the phone easier than ever.

- Provides natural hearing
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- Preserves peace and quiet
- Better understand conversations
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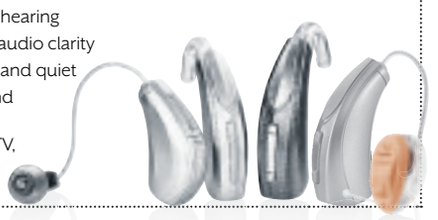

Rechargeable Reimagined

Introducing **Muse iQ** Rechargeable, the hearing aid technology you've been waiting for.

NO BATTERIES REQUIRED!

Muse iQ Rechargeable is designed to:

- **Immersive sound** for true listening enjoyment
- **Longest-lasting charge** delivers over 30 hours of superior hearing
- **All-in-one charger** lets you grab your hearing aids and go
- **The Smallest rechargeable** hearing solution available today

Try for yourself and experience the difference!

READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'More green space needed'

THE Vale Council is currently consulting on replacing a green area in Bonvilston used by children for play, and residents to socialise, with more new housing.

In the LDP and Welsh Government planning policies, this 'Amenity Greenspace' is supposed to be protected from development and enhanced. The Vale Council have a policy that new housing developments require a minimum amount of public open space for play and other purposes per dwelling.

Should the existing houses of Bonvilston be built today, there would be insufficient public space to satisfy the council's planners. So, it's bewildering that what open space there is, these same planners are proposing to replace with more housing.

The scheme would also reduce the already limited parking available for Maes Y Ffynon residents – the houses constructed in the 1950s didn't foresee the rise in car ownership.

I believe that most people support Welsh Government policies that are intended to protect the green spaces in our communities and to provide a variety of play spaces for children, close to homes. This housing proposal suggests that the Vale Council disagrees…

Cllr Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

In response, Cllr Andrew Parker, Vale Council cabinet member for housing and building services, said: "*This is a scheme proposed by the Council's Housing department and would be subject to exactly the same planning requirements as any other development of its type. No planning application has yet been submitted, but, should that happen, it would need to satisfy national and local policies, including those contained in the LDP, while the public would also have the opportunity to express their views before any decision was taken.*

"The proposal is currently subject to a 28-day statutory pre-application consultation period and an event to gauge public opinion on it was held on Monday. Residents can also share their views by completing a survey online at https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154815405226 or by collecting a hard copy from the Council's Dock Offices."

'Bring trees to the Vale'

WE are losing our street/urban trees at an alarming rate. Whether they are being removed due to disease, old age or traffic damage, they are not being replaced at anywhere near the number needed, the result is that we are making our towns and communities devoid of green spaces.

Yet these trees are important to making our urban spaces pleasant and tolerable. Trees in our urban communities have a number of environmental, social and ecological benefits, such as improving air quality by the production of oxygen and the absorption of air pollution; they can control flooding by intercepting and soaking up rainfall; contribute to reducing climate change; help to reduce noise pollution.

They provide food and habitat for our wildlife and provide shade and cooling during heat waves.

We understand that local government is under great financial pressure so we need to send a message to our councillors that our street/urban trees are a high priority for local people. Barry Action for Nature has launched a petition calling on the Vale Council to commit to increasing tree cover in Barry and the wider Vale of Glamorgan.

I believe that the overwhelming majority of local people would want a greener more wildlife friendly Barry. Readers can find the petition at: *you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/for-the-sake-of-nature-and-people-protect-our-street-trees-now*.

Rob Curtis, Barry.

Monday is budget day at Barry Town Council

ON Monday, February 11, Barry Town Council will meet to decide its precept for the year 2019-20.

The council ran a budget consultation across social media to engage with the public.

It asked the question: Are you happy with the council increasing your council tax contribution by 89p per month (band D council tax payer) in order to deliver its budget proposals?

On Facebook 903 votes were cast with 24 per cent in favour of the increase and 76 per cent opposed to it. On Twitter 217 people responded with 17 per cent in favour and 83 per cent opposed.

The interim leader of the Conservative Group, Cllr Vince Bailey, told The GEM: "Members of the Conservative group have been engaging with the process from the start, and I am pleased to see that Labour's initial proposals for a 20 per cent hike have been dramatically reduced already – thanks in part to the efforts of our member on the finance committee, Cllr Rowlands.

"We will continue to speak with the public and play our part in ensuring a fair settlement for Barry residents."

Also on Monday's agenda is an opportunity for the Docks Incinerator Action Group to raise the issue that there has still been no decision by the Welsh Government on whether an environmental impact assessment should be carried out in relation to the Barry Biomass plant.

Music in the Vale concert proves to be a huge success

ON January 27, more than 100 people attended Stanwell School, Penarth, where the winners from the November competition performed a selection of instrumental and vocal pieces.

The audience listened to an afternoon of musical entertainment by the young people. The afternoon was compered by Allan Grayson-Jones and the accompanists were Rhiannon Pritchard, Emma Arscott, Rebecca Selley and Sian Wynn Newton.

Vocalists and instrumentalists aged eight to 24 years should apply to take part in the 2019 competition, which will take place on November 16 and 17, by emailing *secretary@musicinthevale.org.uk* for application details.

The full programme included choirs and the winner was Cor Heol y March, made up of 30 young people and was conducted by Eleri Roberts.

Cor Heol y March performed Ffrindiau Bach a Mawr – Meirion Wynn Jones; Distawrwydd – Euros Rhys Evans and Hava Nageela – Folk Song from Israel.

Charity's twmpath for Eyecare project

LOCAL charity Vale for Africa invites Vale residents to a 'Twmpath', a Welsh barn dance, to celebrate Saint David's Day and help raise funds to support its 'Eyecare' project.

Ted Arbuthnot, Eyecare project leader, said: "Each year, we set out with a team of optometrists and GPs to remote areas of the Tororo district of Uganda to train village health teams and transfer our healthcare skills to them.

"The project has been hugely successful, but there is still much more that we can do.

"The Twmpath will be a fun way for people help get the team on their way."

The event takes place on Friday, March 1 at St Donat's Arts Centre from 7pm to 11pm. Thingumajigs ceilidh band will lead the dancing and there is a licenced bar. Cheese & biscuits are included in the price; £10 adults, £7.50 students and £5 for children and are available *via www.valeforafrica.org.uk* or in person at Annette Dobbs Eyecare, 40 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8AZ, call 01446 735130.

For more information on Vale for Africa, contact Gareth Kiddie at gareth@gka.org.uk.

Rail upgrades are on track

VALE MP Cairns met Network Rail representatives recently to find out more about the accessibility upgrades planned for Barry and Cadoxton stations.

Accessibility improvements are currently being designed for both stations and will be delivered through UK Government's 'Access for All' funding, with match-funding from Welsh Government. Once designs have been completed, work is expected to begin at Cadoxton Station in Summer 2019, and at Barry station in 2020.

Dale Crutcher, senior commercial scheme sponsor for Network Rail Wales and Borders, said: "Improving access at stations will make a real difference to passengers by making it easier for people to get to work, or travel to see friends and family. We are planning a record investment over the next five years to cater for increasing demand and transform the railway in Wales."

Mr Cairns said: "I'm really pleased to see funding from the UK Government being allocated locally, so that much-needed improvements to accessibility can be carried out at Cadoxton and Barry train stations. The regeneration of Barry as a whole is one of my biggest priorities and attracting investment is a key part of that. The station upgrades add to this and helps to make Barry a better place to live and work."

The funding for Barry and Cadoxton stations was allocated at the beginning of Network Rail's current control period (2014-2019). The UK Government has allocated a further £300m funding to continue with the Access for All Programme in Control Period 6 (2019-2024). The stations set to receive this funding will be confirmed in April 2019.

Nominations for the Barry Town Mayor awards are now open

NOMINATIONS are open for the 2019 Town Mayor Awards which honours outstanding individuals in the Barry area who dedicate their time to help others in the area.

There will be two categories: youth and adult. All nominees must be a resident of Barry.

Nominations should be sent in writing, detailing the reasons for the nomination to the Town Mayor, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA (Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 8).

Winners must be available to attend the annual mayor-making ceremony held on Monday, May 12, to receive the award. Winners will be notified on Thursday, April 18.

For more information contact Julie Hurd on 01446 704921; or *juliehurd@barrytown-council.gov.uk*.

Family and work commitments cited as Barry councillor stands down

CLLR Richard Bertin has resigned from Barry Town Council.

In a letter to the council he explained: "After much deliberation, I have decided to call it a day after 20 years of representing my community of Court Ward due to family and work commitments.

"Due to a change of job, I don't feel that I can give the full commitment anymore that is needed to represent my community."

Cllr Bertin, who sat as an independent, said he also wanted to thank all those who had supported him over the years.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / 01446 774484

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POT OF GOLD FOUND

R & D JEWELLER'S ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

Couple receive cash award for unwanted items

A LOCAL couple this week had a very lucky day when visiting R & D Jeweller's Antique Roadshow. Like most households they had a drawer full of bits and bobs including an old gent's watch from approximately 1930. The watch was working but had left to them. A selection of old, broken and incomplete rings and a few odd items of unusual jewellery were also included.

"The young couple were delighted with the good news," said Mr Harding, a professional jeweller.

He went on to say, "The couple asked me not to reveal the exact amount the received but I can confirm we are talking thousands of pounds."

HIDDEN TREASURE

Like most readers you probably have dreamt about winning the pools or finding a pot of gold.

Many households have hidden treasure sitting around wiht the owners not knowing the true value. Well, this is your last chance to visit Penarth, Cowbridge and Barry.

Mr Harding added, "With many years of experience in valuing and purchasing watches, jewellery and gems, I could tell you many stories when people have visited a roadshow with items that were seemingly of little value to them. "Whilst reading this atricle, many readers will be thinking of an old item of a piece of unused jewellery.

VALUATION

Mr Harding added, "The reasons behind choosing Barry is because it's well situated and well known to local people. The roadshow will be the last of its kind to visit the area. Many items are hoped to be found."

Your help is needed to make this unusual event a success with a free valuation service and no obligation to sell, what is there to lose?

Things you should look for and take next week include broken rings, old chains, pocket watches, old silver, diamond and gem set jewellery (even with stones missing), old pictures, objects d'art, coins, medals and virtually anything old or interesting

Their buyers urgently requre stock for collectors and overseas customers, and are offering an instant cash settlement on any items they buy.

No matter how large or small your find, you will be pleasantly surprised by their cash offer, but remember the roadshow is for 3 days only at Penarth, Cowbridge and Barry on:

Thursday 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th February

TOP PRICES PAID FOR SILVER

WANTED!

SILVER TEA SETS
SILVER CONDIMENT SETS
SILVER PICTURE FRAMES
SILVER SNUFF BOXES
SILVER COINS
SILVER POCKET WATCHES
ANTIQUE SILVER CANDELABRAS

TOP PRICES PAID FOR GOLD IN ANY CONDITION

Gold Rings, Gold Chains, Gold Pocket Watches/Watchchains, Gold Brooches/Cufflinks.

Gold in any condition, foreign or English. Top London prices paid.

WANTED

VICTORIAN DIAMOND SET JEWELLERY
LARGE DIAMONDS
OLD POCKET WATCHES
GOLD COINS
GOLD WATCH CHAINS
VINTAGE WATCHES REQUIRED
CARTIER
PATEK PHILLIPE
IWC - ROLEX
AND ANY OTHER INTERESTING WATCHES

WAR MEDALS REQUIRED

Old Rolex Watches £75-£1,000 ANY CONDITION WORKING OR NOT

Chronograph Rolex Up to £10,000 ANY CONDITION WORKING OR NOT

Square or Oblong Rolex £150-£5,000 ANY CONDITION WORKING OR NOT

THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY	FRIDAY 15th FEBRUARY	SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY
11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm
THE PAGET ROOMS, PENARTH, CF64 3EG	COWBRIDGE TOWN HALL COWBRIDGE, CF71 7AP	BARRY LIBRARY 160 KING SQUARE, BARRY, CF63 4RW

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Top price paid for large diamond jewellery and 1930s Cartier watches

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To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 13TH FEBRUARY 2019

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY — NO PETS

H4U reference 203042
- Three bed flat
- Second floor (no lift)

Rent £104.33 per week inc water

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 203212

55+ pref to apps with a medical priority
- One bed bungalow
- Level access shower
- Community Alarm

Rent £112.78 per week inc water/alarm

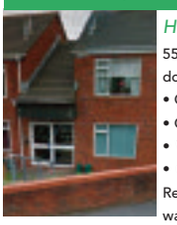
CWM PARC, BARRY — NO PETS

H4U reference 206496

60+ Pref to appts with a medical priority
- One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Community Alarm

Rent £119.07 per week inc water/alarm

HILL STREET, BARRY — NO PETS



H4U reference 211972

55+ Steps down to front door
- One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Wet Room
- Community Alarm

Rent £100.70 per week inc water/Alarm

NORTH WALK, BARRY — NO PETS

H4U reference 218059
- Three bed flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £104.33 per week inc water

BEDFORD RISE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U reference 233293

Pref to appts with a medical priority
- Two bed flat
- Ground floor
- Level access to shower

Rent £103.63 per week inc water

CRAWSHAY COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U reference 234194

NO PETS

60+ pref to apps with a medical priority
- One Bed flat
- First floor (with lift)
- Level access shower
- Warden

Rent £121.56 per week inc water/warden

OWAIN COURT, ST ATHAN — NO PETS

H4U reference 249321

55+
- Two bed flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Community Alarm

Rent £105.29 per week inc water/alarm

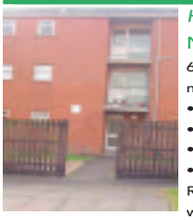
CASTLELAND STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 204137

55+ pref to apps with medical priority
- One bed bungalow
- Level access shower
- Community Alarm

Rent £106.61 per week inc water/alarm

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH



H4U reference 243274

NO PETS

60+ Pref to appts with medical priority
- On bed flat
- Second floor (lift)
- Level access to shower
- Warden/Alarm

Rent £120.14 per week inc water/warden

ST AUGUSTINES CRESCENT, PENARTH

H4U reference 244450

Pref to apps with medical priority
- Two bed flat
- Ground floor
- Wet Room
- Ramping to front

Rent £102.12 per week inc water

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH — NO PETS

H4U reference 245208
- Two bed flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £100.67 per week inc water

PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY — NO PETS

H4U reference 252641

55+ Pref to apps with a medical priority
- One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Water meter
- Comminuty Alarm

Rent £89.17 per week inc water

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - HAFOD HOUSING ASSOCIATION

CROSS COMMON ROAD, DINAS POWYS

Hafod Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development of properties at Cross Common Road, Dinas Powis.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to Dinas Powis (local work, family or life connections). Anticipated completion date is end of April 2019. A local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

4 x 2 bedroom houses (rent £109.83 per week plus service charge)

CAERWENT GARDENS, CAERLEON ROAD, DINAS POWYS

United Welsh Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the new development of properties at Caerwent Gardens, Dinas Powys. Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to Dinas Powis (local work, family or life connections). Anticipated completion date is end of March 2019. A local lettings policy applies to this scheme.

3 x 3 bed houses - rent £112.55 per week • 5 x 2 bed houses - £110.78 per week • 1 x 4 bed houses - £132.95 per week

Service charge to be confirmed and new rents will be applied from April 2019

NEWYDD HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Ffordd Y Dociau, Barry Waterfront

Newydd Housing Association together with The Vale of Glamorgan Council announces the new development at Reflections @ The Quays, Barry Waterfront. Bids are invited from Homes4u members

181488 - 2 x 1 bed flats first floor (no lift)
181490 - 2 x 1 bed flats ground floor (general need bathroom)

Rent in the region of £ 91.07 (to be confirmed) and service charge (to be confirmed)

All Applicants will be subject to a verification interview prior to any offer being made. All offers of tenancy will be subject to a satisfactory references. Applicants with no previous social housing tenancy or a previous failed social housing tenancy will be required to attend the tenancy ready workshop.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

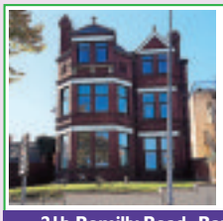
KNIGHTS

ESTATE AGENTS
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Three bedroom bay fronted property situated near the town centre of Barry within walking distance of shops and train station providing links to Cardiff and Bridgend. This property has been renovated to a good standard throughout and enjoys views across Barry Docks and the Bristol Channel beyond.

Offered for sale with no chain.

78 Dock Road, Barry, CF63 3QQ £169,950



Contemporary style apartment occupying the first floor of this converted Victorian building situated in the West end of Barry and enjoying panoramic views across Barry Waterfront, Sully and sea beyond. In walking distance of train station providing links to Cardiff and Bridgend, High Street and Park Crescent shops.

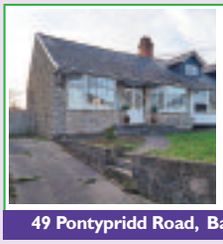
Offered for sale with no chain.

21b Romilly Road, Barry, CF62 6LF £179,500

This property is unique as you get two for the price of one!

You could choose to live in the beautifully renovated two bedroom first floor residence located at street level and rent out the self-contained one bedroom ground floor apartment with its own private entrance and enjoy a rental income of £450 per month!

65 Wenvoe Terrace, Barry, CF62 7ET £225,000



detached bungalow situated within the highly desirable West end of Barry. Ideal for roof conversion if desired providing a further two/three bedrooms and additional bathroom. Renovated throughout by the current owner. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for two/three vehicles.

Offered for sale with no chain.

49 Pontypridd Road, Barry, CF62 7LP £250,000

Every window, balcony and roof terrace enjoying panoramic sea views. This apartment is a must see and early viewing is urged to avoid disappointment.

Rare to the market and set over two floors, this executive apartment situated on the exclusive Knap area set within the highly desirable West end of Barry.

24 Waters Edge, Barry, CF62 6UD £295,000

Well-presented and maintained three bedroom semi-detached property set on the highly desirable Cwm Talwg development towards the West end of Barry.

Views of open countryside to the front elevation. Driveway providing off road parking for up the three vehicles.

21 Teifi Drive, Barry, CF62 7TL £225,000

detached property set on the popular Highlight Park development in North Barry enjoying views across open countryside. In walking distance of supermarket, pharmacy, community centre, doctors' surgery, public transport and schools.

Easy access to Cardiff and M4 corridor.

16 Coed Mawr, Barry, CF62 8AD £185,000

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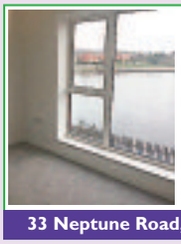
Queen Street £625pcm

A three bedroom detached family home, property comprising of Entrance hallway. Open plan lounge/dining room. Fitted kitchen with oven and hob. Space for washing machine. Large conservatory. Downstairs W.C. Good size study which can also be used as a fourth bedroom.

Melton Lodge, The Lane, St Nicholas £995pcm



Brand new three bed town house situated on Barry Waterfront offering panoramic views from the front aspect. The property comprising of Entrance hallway, downstairs W.C., Study/Dining room, Kitchen/Diner with patio doors providing access to the rear garden.

33 Neptune Road, Barry £950pcm

A two bedroom mid link unfurnished property with garage and driveway, enclosed rear garden, fitted kitchen with oven, hob, dishwasher, fridge freezer and washing machine, family bathroom, en-suite shower room, fitted wardrobes to both bedrooms, Gas Central heating.

5 Heol Par, Barry £750pcm

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Whats on and where in your area

Cowbridge U3A Meeting

THE next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a talk entitled 'Land of Song' by Dean Powell at 2pm on Wednesday, February 13 at Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Penarth Civic Society to visit Insole Court

THERE will be a guided tour on February 16 of this magnificent house (Fairwater Road, Cardiff CF5 2LN) which only reopened recently and was a significant topic of a guest speaker we had last year, Mike Statham, who gave a presentation on Penarth alabaster, which is used extensively through the house.

The tour takes in ground floor rooms and the first floor library. There is a £3 per person charge for members and £5 for non-members. Meet at visitor reception at 1.50pm on Saturday, February 16.

We ask members to volunteer car-pooling; if you are able to offer or need a lift, please contact dave.noble1959@gmail.com or phone 07966 364988.

Mayor's Youth Concert

ON Saturday, February 16 the Mayor of Llantwit Major will be holding the annual Youth Music Concert in St Illtud's Church to showcase the wide selection of young local talent.

This year's performances include sets from Llantwit Major School, Stage Door 1, Atlantic College, Major Music and more. It is the fourth year the concert has taken place and is sure to be another inspirational evening.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Llantwit Major Town Council's Office in the Town Hall or call 01446 793707.

All proceeds donated to Mayor's chosen charities: Headlines, Age Connects and St Illtud's Church restoration fund.

Film night in Barry

THE Benefice of Barry welcome everyone to their next film night, so grab your duffle coat and pack your marmalade sandwiches!

Paddington Bear is in town on Friday, February 15 at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry with Paddington 2.

Doors open 6.30pm; adults £3 children £1.50 at the door. Tuck shop and refreshments available to purchase.

Carers' support group

AS a carer, you keep going in spite of tiredness, lack of sleep, snatched meals, cleaning up accidents, feeling annoyed and feeling down.

Being a carer is not easy, and you need to learn to look after yourself – it isn't selfish to look after yourself, in fact it is selfish not to. Suggestions from the group have included having a meal delivered once a week so that you don't have to cook, setting an hour aside to meet a friend, enjoying an hour of gardening or listening to music.

The next meeting of the carers' group takes place on Thursday, February 14 at 2pm in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge. Contact Rev Victoria on 01446 775381 or vicar@cowbridgeparish.com for further information.

Murder, She Didn't Write

DEGREES of Error's hilarious and innovative Murder, She Didn't Write will visit Maesteg Town Hall on February 22.

In this wild and anarchic show, the audience become both author and sleuth as they are invited to help to create their very own Agatha Christie-inspired masterpiece – and to watch it unfold on stage.

To book tickets, visit www.maestegtownhall.com/events/3733/murder-she-didnt-write/ or call the box office on 01656 815995.

Porthcawl Buckaneers Summer Carnival

PORTHCAWL Buckaneers will hold their summer carnival on Saturday, July 20 and the theme is 'A Year of Discovery'.

Applications for float and walker entries should contact Kerry Marlow on porthcawlcarnival.co.uk, Porthcawl carnival's Facebook page or message 07900 494386.

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Family Notices

SHORT
Walter Raymond (Ray)

Passed away peacefully at home on 30th January 2019, it has been a joy and privilege to share our lives with our lovely man.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Wednesday, 13th February at 11am. No flowers by request. Ddonations may be made in memory of Ray in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care at the service.

MULHERN
Reuben James

Suddenly passed away on 28th January 2019, aged 26 years, loving son to Christian and Julie, brother to Abbey, cherished uncle to Georgie and Ruby. Reuben will be greatly missed by his grandparents, Brian and Christine. He will never be forgotten by his uncles Adam, Tank, Tommy and his aunties Emma, Lara, Regina, his nephews Sebastian, Joe and his niece Izzy.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 13th February at 2pm, followed by a committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations may be made in memory of Reuben in favour of Mind at the service.

No more money, no more fancy dress, this other kingdom seems by far the best.

LEWIS
Ernest James (Ernie)

Peacefully at Collegefields Nursing Home, Barry on 28th January, Ernie formerly of Lower Morel Street, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Rowena, much loved dad of Rhys, Keri and Greg. Father-in-law of Karen, Sarah and Becci, adored pappy of Shaun, Aiden, Mollie, Sam, Jesse, Ollie and great grand pappy of Louie.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a celebration of his life at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, 15th February at 1pm.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service, all donations will go to support Velindre Cancer Care.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Anthony D.H. Thomas.

Further enquiries telephone 01446407962

CLAY
Hedley Vivian (Viv)

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital on 30th January. Beloved husband of Edna, loving father to Michael and Philip, loved by his daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at 11am on Friday, 15th February at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations to the Alzheimer's Society, 43-44 Crutched Friars, London, EC3N 2AE welcomed in memory of Viv.

GRIST
Michael Wilfred R.I.B.A.

(of Flush Meadow, Llantwit Major)

Passed away on Wednesday, 30th January 2019.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 19th February, service 11am at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by interment at Llantwit Major Cemetery, Boverton Road.

ORAM
Terry

Peacefully passed away at the Heath Hospital on 26th January 2019, aged 83 years. Loving husband to Shirley, brother to Val, stepfather to Linda and Stephen. Cherished grampy, gramps and uncle to all his grandchildren, nieces and nephew.

Terry will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Friday, 15th February at 2pm.

No flowers by request. Donations may be made in memory of Terry in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care at the service.

BALL
Freda Winifred Edith

Passed away peacefully at home on the 30th January 2019 surrounded by her loving family. Loving wife of the late Doug, beloved mum of Sue, Jan and Howard. Loved mother-in-law of Pete, Dave and Angela. Adored nan and grandmother to Andrew, Louise, Sherri, Nick and Nathan and their wife and partners, Kelly, BJay, Barry and Carla. Cherished 'Old Nan' to all of her great grandchildren. Loving sister-in-law to Glo and sister to the late Graham.

Freda is resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until her funeral service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 14th February at 12 noon.

The family request family flowers only and donations if desired, in memory of Freda, may be made to Marie Curie

MANSBRIDGE
Maria Jane (*née* McKay)

Peacefully on 26th January 2019, Maria, beloved wife of the late Kevin. Much loved mum of Jason and Gareth, a dearly loved nan to Alfie, Oscar, Ifan and Ffion.

Maria will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Saturday, 9th February at 11am. Immediate family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired for Ward A1 at UHW c/o the funeral director.

WOLDRIDGE
Kenneth John

Peacefully at home on 28th January, Ken passed away aged 82 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, loving father to Kevin and a cherished grandfather to his grandchildren Kevin Junior, Leanne, Melissa and Cieran; and great grandchildren Owain, Casey and Brandon.

He will be greatly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at 10am on Wednesday, 13th February at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only. Donations in Ken's memory to Stroke Association, Stroke Association House, 240 City Road, London EC1V 2PR and Diabetes UK, Wells Lawrence House, 126 Back Church Lane, London E1 1FH.

KILLICK
Linda

After a short illness, Linda passed away peacefully at home on 29th January 2019. Beloved wife of Bob, loving mother of John and Mark and much loved grandmother of Owen, Elin-Mai, Rosie and Seren.

Linda will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Tuesday, 12th February, service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10am, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, payable to Marie Curie or Motor Neurone Disease Association may be sent c/o Tovey Bros, 9/11 Cardiff Road, Newport, NP20 2EH. Tel: 01633 266848 www.toveybros.co.uk

DUNFORD
Colin John

Peacefully at home, Colin, much loved husband of Trish. Will be sadly missed.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 14th February at 3.15pm.

No flowers by request.

MORGAN
Philip William

It is with a broken heart the family announce the peaceful passing of Phil of Boverton, late of Tair Onen, after a short illness on 27th January at University Hospital of Wales. Beloved husband of the late Nancy, father of Paul and daughter-in-law Joanna.

Phil will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 12th February, service and interment 1.30pm at Zoar Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, c/o the funeral director.

WALLIS
Barry Hamilton

Passed away peacefully at Oaklands Care Home on Monday, 28th January, formerly of City House, Bettws, Bridgend. Beloved husband of the late Pearl and a devoted father to Daryl, Julian and the late Sean. A cherished grandfather and great grandfather.

Funeral on Thursday, 14th February. Service at St. Robert's Catholic Church, Aberkenfig at 11am, followed by interment at Sarn Cemetery.

Flowers and enquiries to Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend. Tel 01656-650831.

SMITH
Brenda Mary

Peacefully on 26th January at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff – Brenda, devoted wife to the late Graham and much loved mum of Karen.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Brenda is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Barry Cemetery Chapel, Cemetery Approach, Barry on Monday, 11th February at 11.15am, followed by interment

Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

WILDING
Yvonne

Peacefully at home on 30th January, Yvonne passed away after a courageous battle with her illness, aged 72 years. Dearly beloved wife of the late Keith, cherished mother to Anna and son-in-law Andrew and adored grandmother to Isabella and Lara.

She will be sorely missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at 1.15pm on Wednesday, 20th February at Church of St John the Baptist, Llanblethian and afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in Yvonne's memory welcomed to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR and the Donkey Sanctuary, Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, EX10 0NU.

Special thanks to all the healthcare professionals who cared for Yvonne.

DOWDELL
Herbert Ernest (Bert)

Peacefully at the Waverley Nursing Home on Friday, 1st February, Bert, passed away.

Much loved and devoted father of Jacqueline, Lesley and Ian. Cherished father-in-law of Paul, Haydn and Tracey. Much loved bampy of Kerry, Andrew, Neil, Rachel, Nicholas, Charlotte and Carys. Adored great grandfather of Oliver, Thomas, Summer, Eliza, Benjamin, Thomas, Hannah, Ava, Millie, Theo, Skye and Zach and the late baby Louis.

Bert will be greatly missed by all his family and loved forever – you were one in million.

Acknowledgements

CLISSETT
Norah (*née* Tierney)

Norah's family extend their heartfelt thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages, donations and especially for their presence at the celebration of Norah's life.

Acknowledgements

BROWN
Steven Craig (Steve)

Steve's family would like to thank all friends, family and work colleagues for their kind messages, generous donations to Bloodwise and presence at the celebration of Steve's life. Special thanks to the wonderful nursing staff on Ward B4 and HDU at the UHW, Heath for all the care given during Steve's stay.

Thank you also to Phil and Vanessa of W. James & Sons Funeral Directors of Fonmon for their service and help in getting us through this very sad time.

BLAKE
Colette Marie

Diane, David and family would like thank all family and friends for their support, condolences and kind messages at this sad time. Thank you for all donations made in memory of Colette to Touch Trust Therapy.

We would like to thank Father Kevin Lake for conducting a moving service, also a special thank you to Melanie Parsons for the reading of the eulogy and to Kiaran Parsons for the touching and sentimental words spoken at the service. Thank you to Michael Bennett for his rendition of 'The Greatest Love'.

Finally, thank you to Lyndsay Ellis of Vale Funeral Service for his compassion and guidance at this difficult time.

In Memory

MOLLART
Shirley Vivienne

3 July 1933 - 9 February 2015

Beloved sister of Val, Hazel, Gren and Dee. Dear sister-in-law of Marian and the late Stan. Devoted auntie of Rebecca, Julia, Alex and Fiona.

We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk beside us all life through, until we meet again.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MUM

JONES
Rebecca

9 March 1981 - 8 February 2018

We love you still, today, tomorrow and always,

Jacob and Immie.

IN LOVING MEMORY

JONES
Rebecca

9 March 1981 - 8 February 2018

In our hearts and thoughts everyday,

Mum, Dad, Rosie, Ollie and Tommy.

BIRNER
Angela

Mum, we miss you making our days so sparkly.

Love you always Abi & Luschie xx

BIRNER
Angela

I love you my angel.

I miss you every second of the day.

Alf x

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80

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Western Mail	15,697	13,419	Paid £1.00
Glamorgan Gazette	5,637	4,779	Paid £1.30
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The Barry and District Men's Skittles League

HERE are the latest results from the Barry and District Mens Skittles League.

Division 1: Merrymen 291 (A Buckland 31), 49ers 298 (TH Anderson 30).

League: 49ers 26, Geest 18, Posties 14, Willie Wombles 13, Blue Monkey 12, Bunker Boys 12, Merrymen 12, Billy Whizz 11, KP Rejects 10, British Rail 9, Cannon Balls 8, Sea View 7.

Division 2: Ex Servicemen 243 (R Harrington 27), H Bells 259 (R Wills 28).

League: Park Lads 22, H Bells 16, Cavaliers 16, Mighty Dockers 16, Hairy Lemons 14, Barry Park B 12, Ex Servicemen 12, Tynny Lads 11, Colcot Boys 10, BP Breakaways 10, Exiles 9, Witchill Poachers 8.

Division 3: League: Park Rangers 18, Billy Bluebirds 16, Witchill Nomads 15, Cocoa Nuts 14, Glenbrook Flyers 12, Royalists 11, Castle Boys 10, Abercrete 10, Alternatives 10, CUD 10, Master Mariner 0.

Allform Cup quarter finals: Exiles beat Blue Monkey, Mighty Dockers beat Posties, 49ers beat BP Breakaways, Bunker Boys beat Park Lads.

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

The Barry and District Leagues tables and results

HERE are the latest results from the Barry and District Club Leagues:

Crib Division 1: Wyndham Cons 6, Rhoose Social 9.

League Table: Rhoose Social 118, Wyndham Cons 114, Liberals 113, West End Runaways 112, Cadoxton Cons 111, West End 104, Moors Boys 93.

Knockout Cup semi-finals First Leg: Rhoose Social 8, West End Runaways 7; West End 9, Liberals 6.

Skittles Division 1: Knockout Cup quarter-finals: Rhoose Social C beat West End C; Rhoosters beat Rhoose Social B; Liberals C beat West End D.

Snooker Division 1: West End C 3, Harbour B 2; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Harbour B 2; Cadoxton Wildcats 2, Rhoose Social B 3; Penarth Cons A 4, Cadoxton Cons B 1; Savoy A 3, Wyndham Cons A 2; Liberators 3, Market Street B 2.

League Table: West End C 59, Savoy A 55, Harbour B 52, Wyndham Cons A 49, Cadoxton Cons Z 46, Cadoxton Cons B 41, Penarth Cons A 34, Cadoxton Wildcats 30, Rhoose Social B 27, *Liberators 25, Market Street B 23.

Snooker Division 2: West End B 1, Savoy B 4; Penarth Cons B 3, West End A 2; Rhoose Social C 2, Services Social B 3; Market Street C 3, Wyndham Cons D 2; Harbour A 1, Sully Sports A 4.

League Table: Savoy B 55, Rhoose Social C 52, Cadoxton Cons A 50, Penarth Cons B 50, Market Street C 44, *Services Social B 44, Wyndham Cons D 42, Harbour A 41, West End A 36, Sully Sports A 33, West End B 24.

* = Points Deducted

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk

JW

Barrivale Bridge Club results

THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club session on January 29 were as follows:

First, Jane Brook and Hilary Morgan 57.29 per cent; second, Jenny Vaughan and Peter Millar 56.60 per cent; third, Huw and Celia Thomas 56.25 per cent. The handicap winners were Linda Houston and Pat Price.

New members at the club are always welcomed and a partner may be arranged,if required. If you would like to join us, call any of the following numbers: 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evenings.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new to bridge may attend the following sessions:

Friday 10am (doors open 9.45am) at the Pioneer Hall for lessons and assisted play;

Thursday afternoons for assisted play from 1.30pm-4pm at the Barry Uniting Church, Heol y Llongau, Barry CF63 4AP.

Linda Houston

Barry Town United star heads north

BARRY Town United's versatile Macauley Southam-Hales has earned a move to Football League club Fleetwood Town managed by Joey Barton.

A Barry Town spokesman said on Sunday: "After attracting interest from a number of other professional clubs, we can confirm that Macauley Southam-Hales has completed a medical and signed with Fleetwood Town of EFL League One for an undisclosed fee."

The deal includes a loan return to Barry for the rest of the 2018-19 season subject to international clearance.

Gambits fall to second defeat of the season

THERE were three games scheduled for the Barry Chess Club this week, all away games.

In division 1 the Bosons were due to play the Pontypridd Barbarians on Thursday. This game was postponed due to the inclement weather. However other games played in the week saw the Bosons drop to the bottom of the table.

Only a half point separates the bottom three teams, and with the Pawns in sixth place only 2.5 points ahead of us, there is all to play for, and the relegation fight should go to the final round of matches.

In division three the Quarks travelled to Caerphilly to play the Rooks. Just as in the reverse fixture we lost by 3 - 2, Tom Cooke and Mike O'Leary winning their matches. Mike's win takes him to the top of the player performance table above Ieuan Thomas and Martin Ricketts.

In division 4 the Gambits played fellow promotion rivals Pentyrch C. The C team played a stronger team than usual and on board one for Pentyrch was Will Harwood. This is only his second match of the season; co-incidentally both of his games have been against the Gambits and Chris Green.

For three of us this was our second match in Pentyrch this year. This time our luck ran out and with only one draw for all our efforts we returned home losing 4.5 - 0.5. The Gambits drop to second in the table some 3.5 points behind Pentyrch, who seem destined for the divisional title. We still have the challenge of the Pontypridd Goshawks to come and surely it is between these two for the runner-up spot.

The Quarks have 24 points from 10 games and lie in sixth place some 10 points above bottom team Bridgend C, although we have played one more game.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at *barrychessclub.yolasite.com*

Phil Jones

Evan lands a Taunton winner

EVAN Williams had good reason to be pleased that Monday's Taunton National Hunt fixture passed a 7.30am inspection.

His five-year-old *Bold Plan*, ridden by Pembrokeshire's Sean Bowen, landed the opening Racing To School Novices' Hurdle (Division 1) by one-and-a-quarter lengths from the odds-on favourite *Southfield Stone*, ridden by Lorcan Williams, who like Bowen hails from west Wales.

Brian Lee

Bridge results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for January 4 are as follows:

First, Debbie and Simon Richards, 60.80 per cent; second, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 59.44 per cent; third, Phil Felman and Tony Disney, 58.15 per cent.

LE

Barry Beavers back in the 'swim' of things

BARRY Beavers Disabled Swimming Club resumed on January 12 after the Christmas break, starting at an earlier time of 3.30pm.

The session went past quickly and there were some new faces.

On January 23, some members went to the Vale Volunteering event at the Memo Arts Centre, and on January 30 three members of the club went to Barry Football Club to receive a cheque of £150 for the club from the Barry Round Table. This was money raised from the Santa Sleigh collection.

Currently, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club need a voluntary fundraiser. To find out more about this position, and the club itself, contact Pat Finch 01446 747683/07517 121729.

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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A victory under pressure for Barry seconds

BARRY RFC seconds returned to action following a weekend of inactivity with Caerau Ely their visitors.

With Glyn Pirso in sole charge for the weekend, he welcomed back Chris Deyes and Rhys O'Sullivan into the starting line up for some much needed experience, while new signing Ashton Allen awaited his debut from the replacements bench.

With a more settled side, Barry tried to start the match with a pace that would put their opponents in the back foot.

However, it was Caerau who came out on top in the early exchanges, and it was only a bit of away indiscipline that cost them a chance in opening the scoring when they were camped on top of Barry's line.

Undeterred,Caerau continued probing and this time they gathered more patience and composure in their attack, resulting in a successful drop goal opportunity to give them the early advantage.

Rattled, Barry rallied and utilised the direct running of Dave Provis and Dominic Busuttil in midfield, instantly causing havoc in the Caerau defence.

Opportunities were created but were thwarted by a combination of excellent last ditch tackling and the ball not sticking to hands.

Eventually,the pressure had to tell. Barry turned the screw in the scrum with the front row of O'Sullivan, Bowditch and Brooke dominant. The resultant territory and possession saw Busutill crash through to score. Richie O'Sullivan was successful with the conversion to give Barry the lead.

Barry now had the momentum with them and fully capitalised. With the Caerau defence on the back foot once again, it was down to Luke Hewitson to finish off a fine move to score his second try of the season. O'Sullivan made no mistake from the tee to increase Barry's lead.

If Barry were expecting an easy ride from then on they were gravely mistaken. Caerau came back either side of the interval to continue to question the Barry defence in both tight and out wide.

Having reduced the deficit with an unconverted try, Caerau looked to complete their comeback but the pressure was relieved when scrum-half Tom Cotter scored his first try for the club to give Barry some breathing space. The extras were missed.

Caerau came back again with another unconverted try to bring the game back within one score, but Barry held out for their first win of the calendar year, the final score 19-11.

This weekend there are no games at Reservoir Field due to Six Nations, but all games will be screened live at the clubhouse.

Squad: Ryan; Mepham, Provis, Busuttil, Hewitson; Rich O'Sullivan, Cotter; Rhys O'Sullivan, Bowditch, Brooke; Hall, Deyes; Jones, Morris, Rolfe. Replacements: Ring, Corson, Allen, M O'Sullivan.

Last Saturday's game at Aberdare was postponed for the first team due to the weather and will be rescheduled for later in the season. Barry's next league fixture will be on February 16 when they travel to play Llantwit Fardre, who currently sit above Barry in the table.

A coach will leave the club at 12.30pm, ready for the kick off at 2.30pm.

On the day Wales face England, February 23, the club will be providing free curry during the afternoon, all are welcome to join us on the day.

The lottery rolls over again this week to £3,650 after last week's numbers of 02, 07, 09 and 24 failed to produce a winner. One ticket matched three numbers to win £10.

KC/AJ

JUDITH DUTTON was on hand to capture the action as Barry RFC seconds faced Caerau Ely seconds on Saturday.

Rain doesn't stop St Mary's senior section

LAST week at St Mary's Golf Club, the Senior Section's first competition was scheduled to be a Greensome foursomes; the weather, however, had other ideas.

With just a dozen of the more intrepid members prepared to venture out in the early morning light rain, and with the promise of it becoming heavier through the morning, the format was quickly switched to an individual Stableford competition to be played over just 12 holes.

In spite of the very wet and muddy conditions, some good scores were returned.

Roger Hatton continued his run of good new year form by making birdie at the difficult par four 17th hole, a feat matched by Trefor Jones. The third birdie of the day was scored by former captain, Hugh Williams on the 155 yard par three 18th.

At the close of play, three players were tied for second place on the equivalent par score of 24 points for 12 holes, but following a back four count back, Trefor Jones was declared runner-up. After a fine round, Hatton's brother Phil claimed the victory with 26 points.

NL

Horse dies after Sandown Park hurdle race

IT was a sad day at Sandown Park last Saturday for Mr and Mrs William Rucker, the owners of *De Dollar Man*, trained in the Vale by Evan Williams.

The eight-year-old gelding was mortally injured when contesting the 888Sport Contenders Hurdle Race won by the long-odds on favourite *Buveur D'Air*.

A winner over hurdles and fences, a National Hunt flat race and a point-to-point, *De Dollar Man*, who was ridden by Grand National winning jockey Leighton Aspell, will be sadly missed at Williams' Llancarfan yard.

The 888Sport Heroes Handicap Hurdle, worth £56,270 to the winner went to the Peter Bowen-trained *Lord Napier* who, ridden by his son Sean Bowen, won by nine lengths from *Coole Cody* at odds of 8-1.

Lord Napier was the second leg of a double for his rider, who also won the opening 888Sport Novices' Hurdle on *Winston C*, a 3-1 chance.

Brian Lee

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15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 3.0 SD V6 SE Tech 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 30k, silver, full leather **£28995**

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16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER VOGUE 3.0 TDV6 Vogue 4dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Sept 2019, pan roof, sat nav, grey, full leather **£43995**

17 17 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D 240 HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, Land Rover warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, head up display, rear DVD, silver, full leather **£45995**

18 18 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.5 Cooper ALL4 5dr, Mini warranty April 2021, chilli pack, sat nav, heated seats, only 1903 miles, green **£21995**

13 63 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D All4 5dr, Privacy glass, Bluetooth, aux, usb, silver **£9995**

15 65 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D ALL4 5dr, chilli + tlc pack, media pack – sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£12995**

15 15 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 D Cooper Business Edition All4 5dr Automatic, sat nav, white **£13495**

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Nismo 5dr 4WD CVT Automatic (197bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, white **£10495**

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black **£9495**

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16 16 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI N-Connecta 5dr 4WD, Nissan warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, black **£14495**

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, met green, full leather **£15795**

15 64 TOYOTA RAV4 2.2 D-4S Icon 5dr Automatic, cruise, reverse camera, 28k, white **£14495**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice **£20995**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG 4WD, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 21k, choice **£21995**

15 65 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT Tech Match 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, white **£13995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 4Motion 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, 5k, Black **£23495**

16 66 VW TOUAREG 3.0 TDI V6 BluemotionTech 262 R-Line 5dr Automatic 4WD, VW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, pan roof, 18k, black, full leather **£26995**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 220 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Volvo warranty April 2019, sat nav, privacy glass, white, half-leather **£20495**

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16 66 BMW 218 I Sport Convertible 2dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, pdc, aux, usb, 28k, white **£15495**
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17 67 BMW 330 2.0 E SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat av privacy glass, 18k, Met Grey **£18495**
16 66 BMW 420 I Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, white, full leather **£20995**
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16 16 BMW 420 D 190 M Sport 2dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, grey, full leather **£17495**
16 66 BMW 420 D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£19495**
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16 66 BMW 518 DSE Estate, BMW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, black, full leather **£12995**
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16 16 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, 19"alloys, pro media, M sport + pack, grey, full leather **£15795**
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16 66 BMW 640 3.0 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, M sport + pack, sat nav, 20"alloys, privacy glass, full leather, **choice from** **£25795**
16 66 BMW M4 3.0 T DCT 2dr Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, sakhir orange, full leather **£34995**
15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 34k, blue, full leather **£29995**
16 66 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI Feel 5dr, Citroen warranty Oct 2019, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, dab, choice **£5495**
14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI 115 Airdream DSport 3dr, air-con, aux, cruise, 30k, white **£6995**
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16 65 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, blue, half-leather **£8995**
16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line 3dr, Ford warranty Nov 2019, air-con, 17"alloys, privacy glass, 11k, choice **£10495**
17 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 T EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 7k, black **£9995**
18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr (New Model), Ford warranty February 2021, sat nav, 17"Alloys, Bluetooth, 8k, choice **£12295**
15 65 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Zetec S Estate, sat nav, appearance pack, 29k, grey **£11495**
16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Estate, Ford warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 17"alloys, 29k, black, half-leather **£12495**
15 15 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr, reverse camera, heated seats, black, half-leather **£8995**
15 65 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI 185 ST-3 Navigation 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, full leather **£12795**
16 66 FORD KUGA 1.5 T EcoBoost ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 23k, white, half-leather **£16995**
14 64 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Sport 5dr, sat nav, appearance pack, pan roof, reverse camera, white, full leather **£12495**
15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Econetic Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, dab, aux, choice **£8495**
14 64 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI BlueDrive Active 5dr, Cruise, Bluetooth, PDC, black **£6495**
17 17 HONDA CIVIC 1.5 VTEC Sport 5dr (180bhp), Honda warranty April 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 23k, blue **£15995**
15 65 JAGUAR XE 2.0 D 180 R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, dab, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather **£16995**
16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) R-Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£18995**
14 64 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr, sat nav, dab, white, full leather **£10995**
14 64 KIA CARENS 1.7 CRDI 3 5dr (7-Seater), Kia warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather **£11995**
16 66 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 4dr, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver **£12995**
15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI ISG 2 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, cruise, aux, usb, 25k, white **£11995**
16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI 1 5dr, KIA warranty Oct 2023, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 17k, black **£12295**
15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 2 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, cruise, white, half-leather **£11295**
16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI ISG 3 5dr New Model, Kia warranty May 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 18k, black, full leather **£16295**
17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 3 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2024, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 19k, blue, full leather **£18495**
15 15 MAZDA 3 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, heated seats, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather **£9495**
17 17 MERCEDES A180 1.6 AMG Line 5dr, Mercedes warranty April 2020, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 25k, white, half-leather **£16995**
16 66 MERCEDES AMG C63 4.0 Premium Estate Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, black, full leather **£34995**
15 65 MERCEDES C300 2.2 H Sport Premium Estate Automatic, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 38k, blue, full leather **£19795**
18 67 MERCEDES C300H AMG Line 4dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, silver, 6k, full leather **£26495**
16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 Sport Estate, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, grey, half leather **£17495**
16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 5dr, Mini warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, dab, air-con, aux, usb, blue, 27k **£10995**
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17 17 MINI COOPER 2.0 S Seven 5dr (192bhp), Mini warranty June 2020, media pack XL, sat nav, chili pack, 8k, black **£15495**
13 13 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.6 2dr, 17"alloys, Air-Con, dab, pdc, 43k, black **£7795**
15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Tekna 5dr (187bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£9795**
16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 25k, white **£10295**
17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr (New Model), Nissan warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, tech pack, 5k, red **£15495**
15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec + 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, cruise, choice **£11295**
16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr X-Tronic 7-Seater, Nissan arranty Oct 2019, pan roof, cruise, 23k, black **£16495**
16 16 PEUGEOT 208 1.2 PureTech XS Lime 3dr, cruise, Bluetooth, DAB, white **£6795**
17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE Energy Expression + 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, Bluetooth, cruise, 6k, black **£10795**
14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Medianav Energy 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 23k, choice **£8495**
15 65 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, aux, Met Red **£7995**
16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Energy S Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 9k, silver **£13995**
15 65 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 Toca 3dr, sat nav, air-con, alloys, red **£5495**
17 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 TSI 125 FR Technology 5dr, Seat warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 8k, choice from **£12795**
16 16 SEAT LEON 2.0 TSI Cupra 3dr (290bhp), Seat warranty August 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, 15k, red, full leather **£16995**
16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE-L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black **£11995**
17 17 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI Laurin & Klement 5dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, full leather, silver **£18495**
16 16 SMART FORFOUR 1.0 Prime Premium 5dr, warranty until April 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, white, full leather **£7495**
17 67 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 20k, silver, full leather **£11995**
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16 66 VW GOLF 1.0 TSI Match Bluemotion Edition 5dr, VW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, heated seats, Bluetooth, cruise, 10k, silver **£13495**
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16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 GT TDI BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY 3dr, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 16k, white **£15495**
15 15 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, heated seats, dab, Bluetooth, choice **£10495**
18 18 VOLVO V90 2.0 D4 R-Design Estate Geartronic, Volvo warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 6k, grey, half-leather **£26995**

15 65 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, privacy glass, comfort pack, 17"alloys, white **£11495**

18 18 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI Ultra SE Estate, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, Bluetooth, 2k, blue **£22995**

15 65 BMW 320 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, M sport + pack, sat nav, black, full leather **£14495**

16 66 BMW 218 D M Sport Convertible, M sport+ pack, reverse camera, heated seats, 18k, white, full leather **£17995**

15 15 VW UP 1.0 Move Up 5dr, air-con, dab, electric windows, 10k, silver **£5995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, grey **£6795**

15 65 MINI COOPER 2.0 S 192 3dr, John Cooper Works pack, tlc pack, media XL sat nav, heated seats, 13k, full leather **£13995**

15 65 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 Cooper 3dr, Bluetooth, tlc pack, dab, alloys, 17k, white **£13995**

17 67 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 (152) R-Design Pro 5dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, silver **£14995**

15 65 MERCEDES C350 E Sport Estate Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue, full leather **£16995**

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Llantwit Major RFC are left rueing defensive lapses after narrow defeat at Caerau Ely

CAERAU Ely edged a tight game against Llantwit Major 27-22 in Cardiff last week, and in doing so left the visitors yet again pondering why they cannot maintain consistency in their performances.

Llantwit went into this fixture having won the home game earlier in the season 43-21, but knew the opposition would be a much different prospect on their home patch and they didn't disappoint as they raced into a 10-0 lead with two tries in the first quarter.

The first was a well-taken try by their speedy winger as he exposed some poor numbers defending the blind side to dive in at the corner flag.

The second again exposed the blind side as a driving maul lineout saw their number eight detach and stroll over in the opposite corner.

Llantwit, though, battled back quickly with a great, well-executed try. The move started from a lineout with quick ball at the back going from the top straight to Ryan Evans at nine, who released number eight Dafi Davies, charging through on a well-angled run which left several defenders in his wake before being dragged down.

Quick ruck ball was then put through the three-quarters hands as the move went right with Connor Morgan coming into the line, and when stopped another quick ruck gave Evans room to bring the move back to centre ground as he released lock Shaun Shea to tie in a few more defenders.

Then it was a matter of Loz Howley, at 10, moving the ball quickly to the gaps which had now been exposed, and his lovely wide pass to lock Jamie Lewis was matched as the big man offloaded with lovely skill to flanker Stuart Edbrooke, who in turn released Davies to round off the move he had started with a great team try.

However, it was shortlived as just as Llantwit began dominating the game they were sucker punched by a further score, again through poor defending and again on the blind side, as Caerau Ely used some welcome space to put the ball through some short passes and then release their big hard running centre to canter over from 40 metres out.

Thankfully for the visitors none of the three home sides' tries were converted as both kickers struggled with a strong swirling wind. Howley managed a three point penalty in front of the sticks to narrow the gap to 15-8 just before half-time.

Half-time brought a bitter blow to Llantwit with their talisman, player-coach Stuart Edbrooke, departing for the hospital emergency room after receiving a nasty facial injury in an innocuous collision just prior to the whistle.

Llantwit were quick out of the blocks in the second half as they attempted to narrow the gap further. Some early dominance gave them a lineout close out which they quickly mauled over with hooker Huw Williams going over, Howley adding the two points with a big kick to make it 15-15.

But then shortly later, and after all the hard work had been done, they undone it all with some more terrible defending as Caerau, having worked their way upfield, found themselves in acres of space on the Llantwit 22, and with some nice offloading exposed a huge gap in the line and their number eight charged over.

To their credit Llantwit battled back with Williams touching down and Howley converting, and with just a quarter of an hour to go the visitors were right back in it at 22-22.

But by now Caerau were back in control and penned the visitors back into their own half for long periods.

Llantwit did have a couple of opportunities but were undone by some strong defending and a distinct lack of discipline of their own, suffering a case of white line fever and they were penalised close out for not releasing when some composure and patience was required.

Just as the game appeared to be heading for a draw Llantwit imploded as, first, their defensive lineout deep inside the Caerau half was driven back 20 metres, then, when the ball was released to the home backs, they crashed through a weak and feeble defence to race another 40 metres to score the final try.

Another disappointing result yet again then for the blood and blacks when they have come up against one of the form teams. Caerau Ely are a strong side, something third pace in the league affirms, but you cannot gift teams like this points with such weak defending and hope to come away with the spoils.

Man of the match was hooker Huw Williams with his two tries, further mention going to captain Geraint David and number eight Dafi Davies, who put in big shifts, and youth player Connor Treadgold who had a good game as a replacement on his debut at flanker.

The Llantonians now have a fortnight off to ponder their woes as the first of the Six Nations breaks takes place, the next game at home to Tonyrefail on Saturday, February 16.

There is some action on at the Recreation Ground on Saturday however as the youth team take on Rhiwbina in the league, the young blood and blacks showing some promise recently after struggling for most of the season.

Come and support the next generation and then join us in the warmth of the clubhouse to watch the Italy v Wales game.

Llantwit Major: C Morgan, E Holloway, Joel Thomas, T Geere, S Godwin, L Howley, R Evans, G David, H Williams, D Taylor, J Lewis, S Shea, D Bawden, S Edbrooke, D Davies. Replacements: C Treadgold, R Davies, J Morgan.

AH

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON January 29 there was a full programme of league matches.

The Hairy Farmers gave the league leaders an early scare, taking a quick 2-0 lead, but the Edmondes B ended up the winners 6-3.

Second-placed Highwayman Inn were unable to close the gap at the top of the table, they defeated the One Town Hall Square by the same score 6-3.

The team on the move is the Edmondes A, this week they beat the Farmers Arms 8-1. This was despite Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) hitting his fourth 180 of the season.

For the third league week in a row, a new highest out was achieved. This time it was Iain Jones (Victoria Inn) with a 150 three dart out, helping the Victoria Inn beat the Edmondes C 5-4.

In addition Llanharry were unable to field a team so the Red Lion Inn was awarded a 9-0 victory.

Present league standings after 11 weeks are: Edmondes B (74 points), Highwayman Inn (69), Edmondes A (63), Farmers Arms (52), Victoria Inn (51), Llanharry (44), Hairy Farmers (42), Edmondes C (36), One Town Hall Square (32) and Red Lion Inn (14).

Next week, Tuesday February 12, the Edmondes Arms will host the semi-finals and final of the Commemorative Cup competition.

The semi-final line-up is as follows: Maureen Fleming, Rob Jones and Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) will play Lauren Spear, Luke Richards and Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) and Pam Adams, Dave Thomas and Owen Carter (Farmers Arms) will play Amanda Edwards, Michael O'Leary and Iain Jones (Victoria Inn).

These matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com,* up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*

PJT

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Queen of the Castle

Lucy Sellick is the only female Head Greenkeeper in Wales arriving at Wenvoe Castle nine months ago. She brought with her, from Saltford Golf Club Bristol where she was Deputy Course Manager, a wealth of experience of course management, course development, team leading and her own individual skills. Lucy and her team have used this experience to enhance the golf course and its surroundings. Leading by example Lucy soon fitted in with the green staff, professional and clubhouse staff with ease. However, the course is her main priority and when she arrived, in May last year, she hit the ground running and began the transformation of the course with its manicuring of fairways and greens. She and her staff have worked very hard since the end of the season rebuilding tees and bunkers on the course and members are very excited to see the vision she has of how she sees the course will develop over the coming season and the next few years. One objective is to speed up the greens. Lucy's aims are to provide an exceptional, year round golfing experience for players of all abilities, playing on main greens all year round and for the club to leave a lasting and positive impression that satisfies both members and visitors. WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Members and visitors receive a very warm welcome at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club - a traditional members club. It is recognised as a championship quality course with the South Wales Boys and the County Seniors Championships being held here this year.

Wenvoe Castle welcomes Visitors paying green fees Societies (8 or more players) and Corporate Golf Days . Please contact us through our website to book on line or find out more information. www.wenvoecastlegolfclub.co.uk or telephone the Secretary 029 20594371 (Option 2) Social Membership is also available which entitles the member to attend any major function and use the Clubhouse facilities. Non members are also welcome to have lunch, book Weddings, Private Parties and Funeral Teas. We shall soon be introducing a new Spring Bar Menu.

A tale of the unexpected as Wales conjure up a startling win in France

Match report by Philip Irwin

Josh Adams, about to put Tomos Williams in for his try.

ABOVE: Wales thought they had taken the lead in the first half, but Liam Williams was ruled to have nudged the ball forward as he crossed the line. (All photographs by the Huw Evans Agency).

George North races away to score the winning try for Wales after intercepting an 'ambitious' French pass.

ABOVE: Tomos Williams goes over for a second half try, after being there to take a scoring pass from Josh Adams, who had spotted a gap in the French fringe defence.

AT the end of this remarkable game in the Stade de France, Welsh centre Jonathan Davies approached his former club-mate at Clermont Auvergne, Camille Lopez, and it's a pretty fair bet that the first line was: "What the hell just happened?"

Either player could have said it, and I'm not sure whether they converse in French or English, but they must have shared a sense of bemusement after a plot line that could have been devised by Roald Dahl.

At the end of the first half Wales looked shell-shocked. They had spilled a hatful of passes, and had even contrived to turn a penalty in their favour with 20 seconds on the clock into a scoring opportunity for France, which Lopez had taken with a 30-metre drop goal.

It was 16 - 0 to France. At half time all Wales fans could do was repeat, in hope: "Wales need to score first or it's all over."

The first half confounded all expectations. France had picked a big pack, with Morgan Parra to chip away at Wales behind them, so 15-man rugby was unlikely. To confirm that expectation, the heavens opened and it went on to rain for the 80 minutes.

However, France had other ideas. Among their new caps were the sons of two French internationals, centre Romain Ntamack (son of wing/full back Emile) and wing Damian Penaud (son of fly half Alain), and they intended to use them.

Defying the downpour, they moved the ball back and fore across the field, with open side Arhtur Iturria particularly prominent and Wales were forced to defend for much of the first half.

In contrast, the Welsh treated the ball as if it were a bar of soap, spilling it in and out of contact far too many times.

It had started well for Wales. They put France under pressure straight away, but Louis Picamoles gave notice of what was to come by making ground when it mattered. Then, the massive French pack was penalised at the first scrum after three minutes, giving Wales a period of possession.

This ended when Wales won a line out and, from an attacking position, the pass from Gareth Anscombe to Hadleigh Parkes went astray. France seized the ball and went through several phases with backs and forwards combining brilliantly.

Finally, they moved the ball wide and found Picamoles on the wing about 15 metres out, and he burst through two tacklers to score. Parra, uncharacteristically, missed the conversion.

Three minutes later he failed with a straightforward penalty from 35 metres, and four minutes later, Anscombe missed from a similar distance.

The alarm bells were not ringing too loudly for Wales and this point, and things looked good two minutes later when flanker Josh Navidi stole the ball and Wales mounted an attack. It didn't seem to be too dangerous, but full back Liam Williams timed his entry into the line perfectly and cut through.

He had Jonathan Davies outside but, as a defender was poised to tackle the centre, his decision to go it alone was probably correct. It certainly looked that way as his momentum took him over the line.

Anscombe was keen to take the conversion, but referee Wayne Barnes was alerted by the crowd's reaction to the replay, sent it to the TMO Rowan Kitt, and the answer was that he had fumbled it slightly as he crossed the line.

Wales still had the chance to put pressure on France at the five-metre scrum, but they gave away two successive penalties.

Soon after, starting from a Penaud break, France put together a slick handling move and Iturria, in the process of being tackled, dangled the ball out just enough to tempt Wales wing George North, before slipping a great back-of-the-hand pass to Yoann Huget, who raced over in the corner.

Parra missed the conversion, so it was 10 - 0 to France.

Liam Williams was looking Wales' most dangerous attacker and he created a chance when he took a great catch (aided by a Josh Adams' block that the referee missed) and cut through once again. For a split second, scrum half Tomos Williams was in support and looked as if he had a clear run in, but Williams did not spot him.

Two minutes later, Anscombe had another kickable penalty, but this went astray, and France were back on the attack. Penaud chipped through and Liam Williams was hounded by full back Maxime Medard, who took him over the line. Wales were penalised in front of their posts and, surprisingly, Parra was not given the chance to get back in the groove, Lopez kicking the three points instead.

Another French attack, with Huget prominent again, led to Wales conceding another penalty. France declined, opting to kick into the corner. Wales did, at least, defend the driving maul against the huge French forwards, and match summariser Paul O'Connell described it as a "big moment".

You were not wrong there, Paul

There was time, however, for Gareth Anscombe to miss touch with a penalty, and France moved the ball close enough to the Welsh line for Lopez to drop a goal and make it 16 - 0.

Warren Gatland's half time talk must have said more than "stop dropping the ball" - otherwise we would all be coaches - but Wales did stop dropping the ball.

A steady spell of possession early in the second half was not looking particularly dangerous, until wing Josh Adams came inside looking for work, and spotted the giant lock, Paul Willemse in the line, defending close to the ruck.

Adams backed his pace, broke the tackle and was in the clear with only Medard in front of him, and Tomos Williams was in support again, this time getting the pass and crossing for Wale's first score. Anscombe converted for 16 - 7.

On 52 minutes, things got better for Wales. Parkes' kick through left Huget hoping the ball would cross the line so he could touch down, but it cruelly jumped back at him, slipping through his hands and giving George North the try.

Anscombe converted to make it 16 - 14, but that was his last contribution at outside-half, as he and Tomos Williams were taken off, substituted by Gareth Davies and Dan Biggar.

It looked even better for Wales on 55 minutes, as Jonathan Davies made a break, Biggar took it on and No 8 Ross Moriarty burst through - only for the try to be cancelled out when Alun Wyn Jones was ruled to have taken out Picamoles, as the French No 8 attempted a tackle.

Two minutes later, however, Biggar kicked a 30-metre penalty to give Wales the lead at 17 - 16.

On 66 minutes, Anscombe returned as a blood replacement when Liam Williams and Picamoles clashed heads, accidentally, and Williams came off worse.

On 70 minutes, openside flanker Justin Tipuric, who was everywhere, charged down a drop goal attempt by Lopez, but the ball spun away to French replacement Felix Lambey, who almost made the line. At the resultant scrum, Wales were penalised and Lopez made it 19 - 17 to France.

France took heart from this and started to look dangerous again. They were still intent on moving the ball wide, and it proved their undoing.

Getting the ball in a good attacking position on Wales' 22, they managed to throw three poor passes in a row as the ball crawled along the line.

The third (and fatal) pass proved that old adage that tight five forwards are not always an asset in the three-quarter line. Second row Sebastien Vahaamahina's effort was in the air for as long as it takes to pronounce his name, with Huget transfixed as it came to him in slow motion.

Unfortunately for France, George North was moving in real time and he intercepted and was gone, with no real pursuer as he raced 70 metres to go over under the posts. Biggar converted to make it 24 - 19.

The final minutes were not easy watching for Welsh fans. France pressed, but did not really threaten to score. A line out 12 metres out led to three promising phases before they knocked on, and later France had a scrum near the Welsh line, but did not push straight and were penalised.

At the last, France put together 13 phases, without making much yardage, and eventually the ball was spilled and Gareth Davies gratefully booted it into touch.

It was a win, but one that left a lot of questions hanging in the air.

This French side, if given a vote of confidence, could really trouble Ireland and England, but the French are not noted for settled team selection.

From the Welsh point of view, Warren Gatland's tongue-in-cheek remark about how "Wales have forgotten how to lose" was one for the fans, but I suspect the team will asked for a lot more focus and purpose as the Six Nations progress.

NOTE: A line I wish I had written. In the first half, I noted 'The ball is greasy for Wales but dry for France'. Accurate but not a phrase worth repeating, so hats off to Will Kelleher of the Daily Mail who came up with "The ball seemed to be covered in Vaseline for Wales, and Velcro for France".